

CASSANDRA.

THE FAM'D ROMANCE.

Written originally in FRENCH
AND

Now Elegantly rendered into

ENGLISH

By an HONORABLE PERSON.

*of Lord George Digby, then eldest
sonne to John Earle of Bristol, since Earle of
Bristol himselfe.* LONDON,

Printed for Humphrey Moseley and are to be
sold at his Shop at the *Princes Armes* in
St Pauls Churchyard. 1652.

CASSANDRA

THE

TALE

OF

THE

TALE

OF

THE

OF

THE

OF

THE



THE
FIRST BOOK
OF
CASSANDRA.

UPon Euphrates side, not many Fur-
longs from Babylon, two Strangers
were newly alighted from their
Horses under certain Trees, the
thicknesse of whose Boughes af-
forded them a pleasing shade. He of the two, who
by the Fairnesse of his Arms, and the respect which
the other payd him, seemed to be the Master, having
unbuckled his Helmet, was stretcht along upon
the Grasse, and had begun to bury in sleep the
Cares which oppressd him; when having scarce ta-
sted the first sweets of that Calme, he was inter-
rupted in it by the other who accompanied him,
and at the same time rouz'd by a suddain and start-
ling noise, which forc'd him to betake him-
selfe againe to his Horse, and Helmet, and to
advance to the High-way side from whence he
B came,

came, that he might learn the occasion, which he found in the first object there ; It was a Combat between two Knights, in whom he soon observed eminent marks of rare Valour, and high Animosity, their Javelins shiver'd in a hundred pieces under their Horses feet, had given way to their Swords, which they used with so much fury towards one another, and so little caution towards themselves, as made him conclude, that the eagerness of Assailing had quite extinguish'd in them the thought of Defending, and that to both of them it was much more dear to take their Enemies life, than to preserve their own. Till then the Combat was equally ballanc'd in uncertainty, to whom the Advantage inclined, when one of them (whose sable Arms, and Plumes of the same, did in some sort expresse the wearers sadnesse) threw himself upon his Enemy with so much fury, as soon made him by two or three great wounds, begin to apprehend his Condition ; and who still pressing his Advantage with the greater violence, the more he found his Adversaries forces faile, was likely to have put a speedy end to the Action (which yet seemed too slow for his Revenge) had not the Knight, then their Spectator, thrown himself between to part them, intreating them to desist, in the civilest terms that could be used in such an occasion ; but the Knight in the black Arms, whom powerfull Reasons obliged to passionate the others Ruin, and whom the hopes of Victory had already exalted, cryed out with an inflamed voice ; Who ever thou art, if thou beest not a Protector of Crimes, and an Enemy to Vertue, and
if

it thou wouldst not draw upon thy self the hatred both of God and Men, oppose not the destruction of the most cruell and perfidious person living; and seeing him persist in his design, to part them, he charges him with such suddainesse and violence, that the Stranger finding in the weight of his blows, the force and spirit of his new Adversary, was necessitated to lay aside the care of anothers protection, to tend his own preservation. 'Tis true that a secret shame to hurt a man that had already another Enemy before him, and that might seem wearied by a preceding Combat, made him stand a good while upon a pure defensive, but at length finding himself prest upon with so much vehemence, by a man to whom he had given no just offence, and observing the danger came so fast upon him, whilst he spared an Enemy against whom he found all his force requisite, he was upon the point of forsaking scruples, when there appeared ten or twelve fresh well mounted Knights, running towards them at full speed, who taking knowledge of the Combatants, ranged themselves on his side that was hurt, whose weaknesse had then rendred him a Spectator onely, and two of that Troup having soon after withdrawn, and conducted him onward the way to *Babylon*, all the rest fell furiously upon him in the black Arms, and had in instant killed his Horse under him, yet by good fortune he was not so surpris'd with the fall, but that he freed himself from his Stirrups, and (being of an admirable courage) had disposed himself to dispute or lose his life generously, when the Stranger observing the inequality of the Fight,

and detesting the unworthinesse of the Assailants Action, cryed out to him, Thy rudenesse Knight shall not make me faile of my Duty, and since I see thou hast so much more Courage than Courtesie, I will venture that life which thou wouldst have taken away to save thine ; having thus said, he flew among those new comers, with such nimblenesse and vigour, that at the two first blows, he laid two of them at his feet, thereby giving the other leisure to throw himself upon one of their Horses, and to joine him, both which they did with wonderfull agility. The Knight finding himself succoured with so much generosity, by a man he had used so ill, even at the first admired, but soon after grew Idolater of his Vertue, when he saw him overthrow two more of his Enemies, and charge the rest with so prodigious a Courage, as he seemed scarce to need his assistance to their entire defeat; yet not neglecting to second him vigorously, and the other also who accompanied the Stranger contributing to his Masters ayde with much bravery, the Valour of all three had the good fortune in a short space to force the rest who had escaped their fury, to seek their safety in the swiftnesse of their Horses. They thought them not worthy of their pursuit, and the Stranger finding his Horse faint under him of his hurts, leapt lightly from him, and he whom he had succoured alighting also, and putting up his Beaver, accosted him with a Civility farre differing from his first Welcome. The Stranger much taken with his noble presence, and observing in his countenance some ayres not altogether unknown

to him, forgetting all former Animosities, embraced him with much kindnesse: Generous Stranger; said the other to him, or rather, the Gallantest of men, if life were dear to me, I were then obliged to him that hath preserved it; yet what occasion soever I have to hate that, and what design soever I had to lose it, I shall forget both to comply with the just sense of your favours, and shall no longer pretend to dispose of what you have so gloriously made your own, and which ought hereafter to be wholly imployed in your service; yet the love of your Vertue ties me much faster to you than that obligation; and the proofes which you have already given of that makes me hope for an easie pardon of the rudenesse, to which my despair, and almost justifiable passion transported me. I make no question but when you shall know the cause of it, you will not onely excuse that, but conclude also, that you have lesse obliged me in rescuing mine, than injured me in saving the life of *Perdiccas*.

The Stranger, by this Discourse, and by the name of *Perdiccas*, collecting the quality of the person, repayed him his Civilities with Interest, and then recalling to himself those Idæas, which length of time had almost worne out, he so well expressed his impatience to know him more particularly, that the other observing it, I should be very ingratefull, said he, to conceale any longer his name, who will never conceale his heart from you. I am the unfortunate *Lyfimachus*, and now so much the more unfortunate, that I must consent to the prolongation of so miserable a life, that it may be possible for me to acquit my self in some part of what I owe to you.

The name of *Lyfimachus* quite untealed the Strangers eye, who then more attentively considering him, could no longer doubt, but he was the same whom he had formerly seen in so great lustre in the Court of *Alexander*, he then secretly thank't the Gods, for having given him the means to serve so gallant a person ; but being not yet minded to discover himself, he made onely this Reply : Sir ! the name of *Lyfimachus* is so famous, that hardly that of *Alexander* the great, is it more, nor can one have heard of his life, and be ignorant of the wonders of yours. I little expected from this encounter an event so happy, and glorious to me, in which I receive a satisfaction able to make me forget all my misfortunes.

Lyfimachus made a return to these obliging Discourses of all the Endearments that the first ardours of a growing friendship could dictate, which they having reciprocally promised to one another, and confirmed by deep protestations, *Lyfimachus* renewed the contemplation of that Strangers Excellencies, with the same wonder which had possesst him in the Combat ; and truly his admiration was not without great cause, since the Gods had formed him with all the perfections that can accomplish a man ; his face was handsome, even to wonder, but yet in that beauty (which had nothing of effeminate) there did appear somewhat so great and Martiall, so Radiant, and full of Majesty, as at the same instant imprest in the beholder both Fear, Respect, and Love ; his Stature exceeded the tallest men, but with a proportion so excellent, that all the Gestures and Motions of his body, had

a Grace and Liberty no where else to be seen ; his Age seemed to be about five or six and twenty ; The Sun-burning, and toile of a tedious Journey had somewhat impaired the lustre of his naturall beauty , and the length and negligence of his Haire , exprest the little thought he had of his Person ; but the carelesnesse of those things, which the importance of his Affaires, and Traverses of his life had brought him to neglect, could not hinder *Lyfimachus* from observing so lovely Reliques , as represented him a person altogether extraordinary, and the union of such rare parts joined to his own particular Obligation soon begat in him so entire a friendship, as neither the succession of times, nor the extreme accidents of life had ever power to shake ; all things contributed thereunto, their Ages equall, and *Lyfimachus* his person little inferiour, had not so deep a melancholy overcast and clouded the greatest part of his beauty. The Stranger, who by universall Fame, and by his own observation had already great knowledge of his Vertue, observing with more attention (since with more concernment than formerly) so rare a Composition, gave easie way to those powerfull Inclinations which he found spring within him, towards a person of so high consideration.

As soon as their wonder was a little over, and that they had recovered themselves from the Extasis, into which the mutuall Contemplation of one anothers Excellencies had brought them , The Stranger beginning, Noble *Lyfimachus* ! said he, if I were not afraid that my curiositie might displease you, I should take the liberty to ask the

cause of your hatred to *Perdiccas*, since knowing both your Reputations, I have not heard but that in the Court of *Alexander* you lived together in very good Intelligence. And seeing you now so fiercely transported against him, having such knowledge of your moderation, I may not believe that such Animosity can proceed but from Reasons proportionably powerfull and just. Here it was indeed that *Lysimachus* his constancy and power of himselfe quite failed him, and that tears breaking from him with violence, made it long ere he could utter any thing, but as soon as he was able, lifting up his hands and eyes to Heaven; Great Gods, he exclaimed, since you have suffered me to survive the greatest perfection wherewith you ever adorned this World, If you have not reserved me to be those Illustrious persons revenger, O free me at this instant from that hated life, which I cannot lead a minute without horror and shame. Sir, pursued he with millions of sighs, you oblige me by your opinion of my moderation, in beleieving that I would not precipitate my selfe with so much rage and desperation, where the provocation were anything ordinary; It is such, as I am sure, I have no power to expresse any proportionable part of it; I shall therefore tell you in short, that I pursue the infamous *Perdiccas*, as the execrable Murderer, or rather Hangman of the beautifull Queen *Statyra*, Widdow to the great *Alexander*, and of the divine *Parisatis* her Sister, Widdow to his beloved *Hephestion*. He accompanied these few words with such a flood of tears, and hear-breaking groanes, that no soul, but that Strangers, could chuse

chuse but have been touched with compassion ; but his (alass) was too sensible in his own concernment to minde the Actions of *Lyfimachus*, onely having changed colour twice or thrice, and staring upon him with eyes wild and distracted, I conjure you, said he, by all the Gods, *Lyfimachus* ! to tell me true, Is the Queen *Statyra* dead ? Alas, its but too true, said *Lyfimachus* ; and if you will in a few words learn the story of her end, Know that as soon as *Alexander* had given up the Ghost, the cruell *Roxana*, who during the life time of that great Prince, had bern posselt with the rage of jealousy against her, having taken order that the poor Princeffe (who at that time was retired with her Sister to the Castle of *Calus*) should have no notice given her of his death, writ Letters unto her in the deceased Kings name, conjuring her to hasten to *Babylon*, and to lay the surer foundation for this Treason, she and *Perdiccas* sealed them with a Ring of that great Prince, which dying he had left in that Traytors hands, little thinking it should have been made use of to the destruction of what he loved best ; so was their Innocence trained into the snare laid for them ; and that very day that cruell woman, and that horrid Murtherer, causing them to be put to death in their presence, made those beautifull bodies be thrown into a Well, and covered with heapes of stones. The Stranger not staying the conclusion of his discourse, but lifting up his eyes to heaven, cryed out in a tone altogether extraordinary ; Great Gods, now it is that I receive the effects of your promises, and that after ten years persecution, you are pleased to give me that

that rest, which you assured me I should finde in these Countries; having thus said, stared upon *Lyfimachus* with a wild and distracted countenance, whereon death was already painted, he drew his sword, and placing the point of it at the defect of his Armes, he threw himself upon it so suddainly, that neither *Lyfimachus* nor his Squire could possibly hinder him, and fell down at their feet, weltring in a floud of bloud; by the noise of his fall, and outcry of his Squire, *Lyfimachus* recall'd from the rapture into which the Repetition of his misfortunes had carried him, and adding his assistance to the Squires (who transported with this accident was disarming his poore Master with the gestures and cries of a man distracted) mingled also his tears with his, with so great demonstrations of passion, as made him judge, that his Friendship, though of so late a birth, was already of a high degree; when they had disarmed him, they found that as yet he breathed, and considering his hurt with as much attention as their present affliction could allow them, they found that the Sword, having not well seconded his design, was slipt by the inside of his Arms, and had made only a sloping wound along the ribs, which sight suggesting unto them some hopes of his safetie, made them apply all their care to stop the blood, the losse whereof had already so farre weakned him, that he had scarce any motion left. Whilst they were thus busied in this sad office, it pleased the Gods to send them the assistance of two honest Country fellows, who seeing them in that condition, moved with compassion of so sad a spectacle, charitably made offer

offer to them of their service: *Lyfimachus* rendred thanks to Heaven for this encounter, and having understood by them that their house was in the wood before them, not above two or three hundred paces off, he resolved to convey him thither, judging that after such a change in Affaires, there could be little safety for either of them in *Babylon*; besides that, the Squire had exprest to him, that for many important considerations, it behoved his Master to avoid that place. This resolution being taken, they set him upon the Squires horse, who got up behinde the saddle to sustaine him, holding a Handkercheif upon his wound, and in that posture they followed the two Pesants, but before they came at the house, *Lyfimachus* addressing himself to the more aged of the two, Honest man, said he, the Gods have in this encounter sent thee a great good fortune, if thou canst make use of it, and if thou provest as faithfull to us, as we hope thou wilt, thou mayst sufficiently enrich thy selfe. The good man having made protestations to him in very good tearmes, *Lyfimachus* found that he was a man of understanding, wherefore having engaged him in an Oath that he would not betray them, he commanded him to goe to *Babylon*, and having furnisht him with such addressees and instructions as were necessary, he gave him also two Rings of value, bidding him keep the one for himselfe, and use the other as a Token from him to his Physitian *Amyntas*, and some other of his Domestiques, whose service he thought he should need, during that his retirement, with order that they should hasten to him, with all such things as were necessary

necessary, as well for the Strangers cure, as for both their convenience; and having again recommended unto him secrecie above all things, he dispatcht him away, and being assisted by the other (who was his Sonne) they soon after arrived at the house, where they were at first well received by certain women whom they found there; but being once further informed by the young Pefant of the bounty and quality of their Guest, they made tender to them of their service, with great care and application: They forthwith put the poor wounded Stranger to bed, whom losse of blood had already deprived of all strength and knowledge. Although *Lysimachus* found in his own unhappinesse matter enough of desperation, and that being so incapable of consolation as to himself, he was likely to be an ill Comforter and Succourer of another; yet the Obligation he had to that Stranger, and the concernment which he thought belonged to him in that hurt, which his Discourse had procured him, joined to the strong Inclination which he found in himselfe to his Person and Vertues, made him resolve not to leave him, but to suspend the memory of his own, to assist the generous Stranger during his present Misfortunes. In pursuance of this Determination, reflecting upon the cause of that accident, and upon the strange concernment which the other had expressed in the death of the Princeesse of *Persia*, he could not imagine the occasion, but not doubting but he should soon learn it, either from himself, or his Squire, he went on, confirming himselfe in that Friendship which he had already vowed him,
judging

judging by the Testimonies he had already given, that they were both partakers of a like fortune, and that their equall dispaire did proceed either from the same, or a very proportionable cause. He was interrupted in this contemplation by the arrivall of old *Polemon*, with the Physitian *Amyntas*, together with some Chirurgions and other Domestiques that he had sent for, he having commended their diligence, and recommended the Stranger to the speciall care of his Physitian, would needs himselfe be present at the searching of his wound, which upon the first inspection *Amyntas* finding to be no wayes dangerous, and assuring his Lord of the Patients safety, gave him the greatest Joy that he was then capable of. The faithfull Squire was transported with the news, and served those that laboured in his Masters cure, with a Zeale that clearly exprest his affection. The Chirurgions having applyed the first dressing, powred certaine Spirits into the Patients mouth, which by little and little restored unto him his senses, sight, and knowledge. Being newly revived from his fainting, he fixt his eyes upon the first objects that were before him, and seeing himself surrounded by *Lysimachus* and his Squire, and the rest who were dressing him, he considered a while the place where he was, and the persons that assisted him, and suspecting the truth, he faintly turned his eyes on those that were next him, and having fixed them silently a while, O cruell Enemies, said he, with a languishing voice, what have I done; that you should persecute me with so much Inhumanity? and then finding by the paine where his wound

was,

was, he clapt his hands to it, and was upon the point of tearing off all that had been applyed to it, if *Lyfimachus*, perceiving his Intention, had not seised them, and held them fast, which in regard of his weaknesse he might easily doe. The Stranger seeing himsef thus hindred in his resolution, lookt on him at first with a threatening countenance, but afterward finding his body too weak to execute what his soule determined, he endeavoured to move his pittie (so he understood a permission to destroy himsef) by teares, such as could not have been denyed any thing but that. *Lyfimachus* struck to the soule with compassion, urged all the Reasons and Arguments that possibly he could to divert him from dispaire ; but finding that he did not so much as vouchsafe him attention, and that at length it would be impossible to force him to live against his will, he resolved to try whether he could engage him in his own preservation upon point of Honour: Sir, said he, with a voice more sterne than before, hitherto I have thought you a person of much gallantry, but now I am fore'd to tell you, that by these extremes you contradict the proofes of your being so, by too dishonourable a weaknesse, and if you will not have me fix a judgment so much to your disadvantage, I conjure you by all the Gods, and by the memory of the Princesses of *Persia* (if it be true that you have overloved them) to assist me in the revenge of their death ; I desire you to preserve your life no longer than till it hath served to take away the life of their Murtherers, against whom I am likely to be too weak without your assistance ; both they and I challenge

challenge this from you, and if you are as much concern'd as you seem in their losse, lay this truth to heart, that you cannot dye but with Infamy without at tempting that before you perish; it being a Due as well to your own Honour, as to their Satisfaction. I have my selfe as much or more subject to hate life than you; and since in these extremities it is no more a season to disguise, know that I should never have survived the *Princessse Parisatis*, had I not thought my selfe obliged to satisfy her Ghost, by a Sacrifice of their blood who deprived me of her.

This Discourse had so strange and suddaine an Impression in the minde of this Despaire, as at the instant made him ashamed to have sought Death before Revenge, and drew from him these expressions of Repentance: You have overcome (*Lyfimachus*) but remember withall to what time you have limited your desires, and never presse me to more; in the meane while *Araxes* shall acquaint you with the cause of my Despaire, not concealing any thing from you, either of the quality or life of your miserable Companion in Misfortunes. After this he willingly submitted to whatever the Chirurgions thought fit, and being forbid speech for some daies, in regard of the consumption of spirits, *Lyfimachus* resolved to imploy that time with his Squire, in hearing from him the history of a life which he conceived could not but be full of very memorable Accidents; but because the night was already well advanced, having taken a light Supper, and recommended the weak Stranger to the care of his Attendants, he went to bed, and tooke

as much rest till day, as his sad and unquiet thoughts would allow him. The next morning as soon as he was up, he enquired how the Stranger did, and being told that he was at rest, he drew the Squire into a Garden (which the good man of the house kept with much care) as a place in whose naturall sweetnesse all things concurred that might render it delightfull, where being enter'd, they walked a while in some of the faire Allies, and having made some turnes, *Lyfimachus* heard through a Travers that divided the Walkes, the voyce of two Persons discoursing ; and having listned a while, he perceived that it was old *Polemon* their Host that spake ; It is not possible for me, O *Cassandra* (said he) to give you any cleare light in your doubts, but time and your stay here may probably resolve you. I will doe my part to the utmost of my power ; and I protest to you by all the Gods I will not spare my utmost Industry, nor life it selfe to procure your quiet and happinesse ; in the meane while endeavour to recover your spirits from those feares and afflictions that deject them, and be confident that the Vertue of *Cassandra* is too considerable to the Gods, to expose it long to so great a persecution. *Polemon* having pawled at these words, the person to whom he spake, after two or three deep sighs, which were heard by *Lyfimachus*, was disposing her selfe to a Reply ; when all four comming to the end of their severall Walkes, met at the very entry of another that crost them, which discovered to *Lyfimachus* that it was a very personable Woman in a Country habit, who had had that conversation with *Pole-*

mon, and that was all he could discern of her; for she being, as it seemes, unwilling to have any Witnesse of their Discourse, and surpris'd with this encounter, turned suddainly from them, and hastning away, was instantly gone out of the Garden at a little door, which was an out-let from thence into a Grove of therewood just without the wall. *Lyfimachus*, in whom the consideration of his own unhappinesse had extinguish'd the curiosity naturall to men, pryed no further into this adventure, as not inquisitive into secrets, uncalled, it had onely this effect upon him, to make him by the reflexion on anothers Misfortunes, lift up his eyes to heaven in the remembrance of his own; and taking *Araxes* by the hand, he led him on to a pleasant Fountaine there by, where having made him sit down by him, and put him in minde of his Masters commands, he entreated him with much civility to relate unto him his life. *Araxes* remembering his Master's Orders, and being otherwise very glad to obey *Lyfimachus*, having recollected himsele a while, began in this manner.

THE HISTORY OF OROONDATES.

IN the Discourse which you expect from me, I shall set before you the liveliest picture of Fortunes Inconstancy; and now that my Master's commands, as well as my own desires to serve and please you, engage me in the relation of a life throughout full of wonder, I shall endeavour to acquit my
C self

telle of it the best I can ; but since it can hardly be, but that proesse of time, and diversity of troubles must have stolne from my memory some part of those Accidents which have composed it, I shall be carefull to call to minde the most remarkable ones. And having the permission to doe it, I shall discover unto you things as miraculous, as unknown to all the rest of the world.

Had not my Master's indisposition obliged him to impose this part upon me, he had much reason besides to doe it, since in the wonders of his life, so many things have past incomparably glorious to himselfe, that his modesty would never have permitted him to be a true reciter of them. Besides, I am so perfect in them (having been present at the greatest part, and understood the rest from him) that I conceive my selfe little lesse knowing than himselfe in the most memorable passages of them. His name is *Oroondates*, which questionlesse would have been more known to you, had not the necessity of his Affaires obliged him for the most part to conceale it. His Birth is of the most illustrious of the World, the onely Sonne and Heire to the great King of *Scythia*, a Dominion so powerfull in it selfe, and so dreadfull to its Neighbours, that the great *Alexander* himselfe, to whom almost all the Earth hath submitted, never attempted it (as you know better than I) but to his losse and confusion. For his Person, you see what it is ; and for the Qualities of his Minde, you will easily discern them upon a little more frequentation. As for those of his Body, I cannot but tell you, that what Loveliness soever you see him yet retaine, his

his inward griefs joined to the toile of our Travels, have blasted the greatest part of his beauty, which while Fortune favour'd him, was of such lustre and excellence, as the most insensible persons could never behold him with Indifferency. The King his Father, discerning in him from his Infancy a nature as excellent as he could wish, and in a Body lovely, even to wonder, a Soule fit for the noblest Impressions, resolv'd to cultivate both with so much care, as never to be reproacht with a failing to contribute all that could possibly depend on him, to second Nature that had so bountifully enriched him: It was at that time that I with divers others was given him to be a witnesse, and (in my rank) a companion of his Exercises; but as he surpass us in Birth and Greatnesse, so he soon exceeded us as much in the fruits he reaped from his Masters and Instructors, to such a degree, I may safely say, that at his Fourteenth yeare he excell'd in Knowledge, Vigour, Grace, and Dexterity, whether to manage a Horse, or throw the Javelin, to combat in all kindes, to Dance, to Sing, and play upon the Lyre, not onely all men of his time, but perhaps all those that have gone before him; to these accomplishments of Body, all who frequented him might remark a most happy composition of Minde; yet most happy of all in his Manners and Conversation: In his Discourse and all his Actions there did shine a most admirable vivacity of Wit, and solidity of Judgement, a Gentlenesse joined with so much Generositie as made him adored by all the World; and the truth is, he sought nothing with so much affection, as the occasions

to oblige vertuous persons, and whenever he did light upon those occasions, he made use of them with so winning a dexterity, that his manner of obliging did more powerfully engage all men to him, than the obligations themselves how great soever: He was so Liberall, that he reserved nothing for himself; and in his earliest Youth, he did constantly distribute all the money of his privy Purse among the Youths of his age, and that with so much Gentlenesse and Cheerfulnesse, as made it appeare, that he tooke more pleasure in Giving, than the most avaritious in Receiving: In a word, all his Actions, yea his very Thoughts were Kingly, and all *Scythia*, as well as the King his Father, looked upon this rising Sunne, as the Honour of their Nation, and the Foundation of their future Glory and Greatnesse, nor could hopes in truth be better grounded. You will give me leave to tell you by the way, that such an Education is not ordinary, and you may well wonder to heare of it among the *Scythians*, whom you *Greeks*, *Macedonians*, and others of remoter Provinces, have alwaies accounted a rude, cruell, and barbarous people, living meerly according to the Law, and Appetites of Nature; and I must confesse to you that our Forefathers have been such, that yet in the remoter Provinces they retaine somewhat of their ancient Customes, and live with much lesse civility than we doe; but I assure you that in the Court, in great mens houses, and in good Townes, we live with as much state as the *Persians*, with as much civility as the *Athenians*, and with as much good Order and Policy as the *Lacedemonians*.

Tomyris

Tomyris was one of the first that reduced the Scythians from their wandering life, within the circuit of Towns; and her Successors made it so much their care to pursue what she had begunne, that in a little time that warlike, franck, and undissimulate people submitted to the same Laws and Waies both of Life and Government with the rest of *Europe*; insomuch that I can assure you with truth, that our great King *Mitras* possesses at this day one of the greatest, most flourishing, and best govern'd Empires of the World. But to returne to my Prince, whose Childhood I will passe by, that I may come to an entertainment more worthy of you: At fifteene years of Age he was in stature equall to the tallest men, and endowed over and above, the Grace and Dexterity of which I told you before, with strength and agility so extraordinary, as all men admired the effects of it: He was of a temper most robustious, an easie sufferer both of heat and cold, and of all other incommodities indefatigable, whether on horseback or a foot, to such a degree, as at those years he had many times past whole daies and nights together without putting off his Armes; and for his Courage, he had already given many Testimonies of its eminence; and indeed he little wanted the occasions so to do; the immortall Warre betwixt his Father and the King of *Persia* furnisht him with a thousand wherein to expresse that vertue to a transcendent degree: I am sure you have not been altogether ignorant of that War, whose beginnings have been as ancient as this Empire it selfe. *Cyrus* the great, first Monarch of the Persian, gave it its originall,

and flattering himselfe with hopes of the facility in subduing that warlike Nation, which he had found in conquering the faint-hearted and effeminate *Lydians*, perisht with his whole Army in the attempt: His Successour *Darius* the first, seeking to repaire that losse, and the Persians shame, lost there also an Army of a hundred thousand men; and if this cruell Warre hath had any relaxation in the Reign of some of their Successors, it hath proceeded either from their mutuall weaknesse, or the interruption of some other over-bearing weight of Affaires, rather than from any Allay of their Animosity, which after such accidentall intermissions, being fiercely renewed in the mindes of the last deceased *Darius*, and of the King my Sovereigne: These two enraged Princes solemniz'd their mutuall fury by the death of so many thousands, as the fields of the *Massagetes* will yet for many Ages be white with Persian and Scythian bones. In this quarrell, young *Oroondates* performed his first Prentiship in War, where being scarce out of his Childhood, he signaliz'd himselfe in severall encounters, by so many Actions of rare Courage and Conduct, that the King his Father considering him as it were miraculously sent from Heaven, both to animate and instruct the Nation, thought him at seventene yeares old fit for the command of a great part of his Cavalry. We had then when he took that charge newly repuls'd *Darius* beyond the River *Araxis*, who a little before was enter'd the Frontiers of *Scythia* in person, where he left at least fifty thousand of his men; We were camp'd and entrencht on each side of the river almost

almost in view of one another, daily framing designs for one anothers ruine; there past few daies without some light attempts, skirmishes, or particular combats, of which there were scarce any in which the Prince *Oroondates* did not perform some glorious Action. One day (O fatall day to our rest, to which so many sad ones have succeeded) the King was advertised that the Enemies Army, whether through negligence of the Commanders, or for some other cause unknown to us, was not so carefully upon its guard, as the neighbourhood of so powerfull an Army required; upon this Intelligence, he resolved to attempt their Trenches in the night, well knowing that for Enterprises of that nature, the Scythians have the advantage of all other Nations. The Councell of Warre being held, and all Orders issued according to the Designe, night was no sooner begun, but the Troups commanded out for that Enterprise were upon their march, having left behinde sufficient forces to secure the Camp. The Enemies Scouts having discovered us, soon gave the Alarme to their Army, but their diligence was not able to prevent us so, but that having forc'd their Out-guards, we were by that time it had got the advertisement, neare their Retrenchments; Their works were slight, and of little defence, and the narrow ditches being soon fill'd up with faggots brought thither for the purpose, our Horse brakg in without resistance: The dreadfull sound of our Instruments of Warre, in so unthought-of a surprise, struck such a terroure into the Persians, that afore they could recover their amazement, a great part of their Army was

defeated. Indeed that manner of making Warre was so different from theirs, that I thinke it not strange, that in the horror of the night, an Attempt so unexpected should seize sleeping persons, with a distraction almost irrecoverable; great numbers were killed in this first onset, but at length *Mazæus* one of *Darius* his chief Commanders, having rallyed some Troops the best he could, gave a little stop to ours, and thereby leisure to *Darius* to put the rest into some forme of Battaille; But it being my intencion to confine my self in this Discourse to the Actions of *Oreondates*, and to mention others only when necessary in relation to his; I shall tell you that having charg'd in the head of three thousand Horse, he over-bore what ever oppos'd him, generously disdainig to stain his sword with the blood of sleepey and un-resisting persons; he had made himself remarkable in the darknesse of night, by a Plume of five or six white Feathers that descended behinde almost to his Horses Crouper, which was also as white as Snow; and by a Jewell extremely precious amongst the Persians, call'd *Pyropus*, which being fastned on the top of his Head-peece, darted out such a fire as render'd him very conspicuous. Good Gods! What Actions did he in that obscurity worthy of the brightest day, and noblest witnesses? his Souldiers enflam'd by his example endeavour'd to follow him, and imitate his fiercenesse, contemning Danger; which made them do things at that time almost surpassing humane power; I was then with my Master, and (if may I say it without vanity) one of the nearest to his person, which makes me the more perfect in

in those things that befell him that fatall night. To be as short as I can, know Sir, that his courage carried him so far, as that he discovered the Tents of *Darius*; he knew them presently by the number of Guards that defended them; 2000 Athenians over and above the ordinary Persian Guards, had taken the charge that night by speciall order from *Darius*, under the Command of *Patro* an Athenian also, who some dayes before was come to his Service; that sight rais'd in the Princes mind a violent passion of gaining Honour in so noble an occasion, and in his Souldiers as great a desire of so vast a Booty, as the Equipage of the richest and proudest of Kings; these two different considerations transported them in the attempt with such ardour and resolution, that after a long and sharp resistance (in which we lost the greatest part of our men, and all the Athenians fell with wounds of much honour before us) we got at length the Mastery, and were all pressing violently into the Tents, had not the Prince, being resolved to hinder all disorder, and to pay to *Darius* the Respect due to his Quality, stopt us both by intreaties and threats; the great veneration which we all bore to so divine a Person, made us obey without murmuring; and then he alighting, accompanied onely with fifty selected persons, of which I had the honour to be one, he enter'd the Tents with his Sword in his hand, commanding all the rest to stay without vigilant and in order; But (O Gods !) how great was his astonishment, when instead of Enemies he beheld by the light of a hundred Tapers, an Assembly of Ladies filling the Aire with lamentable outcries:

cries. It was as we afterwards understood, and even then collected by the Respect others payd them, the old Queen *Sysigambis*, Mother to *Darius*, the Queen his Wife, and the two Princesses *Statisra* and *Parisatis* his Daughters. This encounter need not seem strange unto you, since you know well, that during all his Wars, they were never absented from *Darius*, and that the number of their Chariots, and the order and magnificence of their Equipage, gave them in the Armies almost as commodious a Residence as in *Persepolis*. *Darius* had left his Tents upon the very first Alarme, going from place to place, where he judged his presence most necessary, to order and encourage his Army; he had left (as I told you) the guard of the Princesses to those whose usuall charge it was, and to those Athenians who perisht all so honourably in the service. Imagine Sir, what these Ladies frights might be, seeing my Prince with his Sword in his hand, all cover'd with blood, and accompanied with such a number all in the same posture, enter the Tent as a place of conquest, with so fierce a demeanour (in which notwithstanding they might have observ'd somewhat of great lovelinesse, if their present apprehensions could have allow'd them considerations of that kind) The young Princesses, more dead than alive, crept close to their Mother, and to the old *Sysigambis*, judging so venerable a Person to be a kinde of Sanctuary. That great Queen to whom the Gods had given a heart proportionable to her condition, seem'd to blame their desperation, and to expect her destiny with a noble patience; when as the Prince surpris'd at
first

first with so unexpected an Object (which made him stand a while confused and speechlesse) at length recovering himselfe, saluted her with so solemne a Respect, as perfected her confidence, and made her begin to give the Gods thanks, that since they had decreed such a misfortune to the house of *Darius*, they had let it fall into the hands of so civill an Enemy. He had taken off his Helmet, and set the point of his Sword against the ground, which obliged the Princesses, being a little recovered from their dismay, to consider him with attention. The heat of the Combat, and his astonishment at such an encounter, had added so great a life and lustre to his naturall beauty, as at the very first he appear'd to those Ladies no lesse than a Deity ; but their veneration was much confirm'd, when as addressing himselfe to *Syngambis* with an obeysance down to the ground, he spake to her in the Persian Language (wherein he had as great a facility as if he had been born in *Persopolis*) after this manner; I were unpardonable, Madam, in the fault which I have committed this night, did not its darknesse furnish me with some excuse ; and should I not protest unto you, by all the Gods, that had I known the sex and condition of the persons whom I have thus mortally offended, I should rather have dyed than interrupted their quiet, or prest into their presence with so much irreverence: If my crime were repairable, I should not think my blood nor life it self too deare a satisfaction, but since it exceeds all power of expiation, allow me Madam ! onely to conjure you and these Ladies to lay aside all the apprehensions that so

rude

rude an intrusion may justly have caused. Those that are with me I am sure will obey me, and neither they nor I shall pretend to any other advantage by this Action, than the honour to serve you as guard still the returne of your own; and the occasion of redeeming by some little service the ill opinion which you may have conceived of us for so high a presumption. Whilst he thus spake, the Ladies found themselves in such suspence betwixt joy and admiration, and both so near the confines of a third passion, f:are, that in a good while *Syngambis* could not finde words to answer the civilities of so generous a Conquerour. From the condition of a Prisoner, which she had beleev'd her selfe, she found her selfe not onely at liberty, but even regnant and absolute over those whose Captive she was before; she would have thought her self happy if she might have hoped for her own and her Daughters liberty, at the price of a great part of *Darius* his Dominions; But this generous Enemy not onely renounces all Right or Pretensions to power over them, but offers himselfe also to be their defence and protection, even against his own party, and submits himselfe to the same Offices which they might challenge from a Subject of their own. The consideration of so great a good fortune, and the admiration of so great vertue, held her a good while silent, at length that she might not appear insensible, she answered him with all the humility that could be expected in her present condition; Who ever you are Sir, whether you are borne of Men, or, as your actions testifie, of the race of the Gods, neither I have words
sufficient

sufficient to thank you, nor *Darius* Empires to requite you, nor the Heavens themselves blessings in store proportionable to so great a Vertue; The proofs which you have given of it so much to our cost, and yet so much to our advantage, have possess'd us at the same time with such an Admiration of your Valour, and so deep a sense of your Goodnesse, that we are become doubly your Prisoners; Your Modesty will not permit you to give us that Title, but as my knowledge of the Rights of War must make us own it, so the knowledge of your Vertue will make us undergoe it with much cheerfulness. Many other obliging things she added, unto which he gave little attention, for having unhappily fixt his eyes upon the Princeesse *Statyra*, he was never able to withdraw them till he had plac'd his soul there instead of them. O the wonders of Destiny! Who would have thought that this young Prince should have found his own Captivity in his first Conquest, and that he that had seen with an Eye of Indifference all the Beauties of *Scythia* dying for him, should meet with, and be overcome by those Charms amidst the horrors of Warre, Confusion, and Blood, which he had so well shunn'd amidst the pleasures and delights of a youthfull, courtly, and idle life? Yet most true it is, that he quite gave up himselfe at that very first sight, which as it was the minute of his first Misfortune, so was it the originall of all that have since befallen him. I shall not need tell you that the Princeesse *Statyra* then about fiftene yeares of Age, was the exactest Workmanship of the Gods; you have been a sufficient witness of that truth,

onely

only thus much I shall adde, that the emotions of trouble and fear having even encreased that Beauty, made her appeare such in my Princes Eye, that he could scarce beleieve her a mortall Creature; his Eyes and his Thoughts were so fixt upon her, as he forgot both *Sysigambis* and himselfe; so transcendent in that Contemplation, that the noise of Weapons, and of Cries without (how great soever) had no power to recall him to himselfe, till in the end one of his Officers running into the Tent, cryed out to him, To Horse Sir, to Horse, if you will not be here surpris'd by *Darius*, who is hastning hither in person with the greatest part of his Forces. This Summons gave our Prince a very sensible wound, constraining him to withdraw himselfe from her, whom having seen too much already, the despaire of not seeing again, enraged; however, making a Vertue of Necessity, and dissembling his griefe, Lady (said he) I shall now with your leave withdraw my selfe, since your own servants approaching I am likely to be no longer usefull to you, and that I imagine you will think your selves safer under their protection, than guarded by persons in whom as yet you can have but little confidence; having said this, he made them a low obeysance, and putting on his Helmet was going out of the Tent, when as the Queen, Wife to *Darius*, who had not yet spoken to him, taking from about her neck a Carnation Scarfe wrought with Flames of Gold, and interwoven with Cyphers of her and *Darius* his name, put it over his, saying, May the Gods never permit, that having preserved the Honour, and Liberty of
the

the Mother, Wife, and Daughters of *Darius*, you should goe away without some mark of their Acknowledgement ; Keep for their sakes this inconsiderable one, and with it the Remembrance of those who remain too highly obliged by you ever to part with your Memory. The Prince received this Discourse and Present kneeling, and more proud of the purchase than another could have been of all the Treasure which his generosity had despised in that place, having taken his last leave, he was at length enforced to quit that Illustrious Company, leaving with them a most sensible griefe for their separation, and carrying away with him those Flames which he hath ever since cherish'd, and will certainly preserve as eternall as his soule. The Alarme which was given us was farre from a false one ; for (to return to my story of the Fight) *Darius* and *Artabazes* having (as I told you before) drawne their Army in Battalia, whilst *Mazens* gave the best Impediment he could to the further progresse of our Forces, they charged our Troups so vigorously, that exceeding us far in number, they soon restor'd themselves to so good a condition, as forc'd our Troups to retire at the same time that news was brought to *Darius* of the danger that the Princesses were in ; The love which he had for them made him soon neglect all other things, and leaving the body of the Army to *Artabazes*, he himselfe with a considerable part of it came furiously against us ; *Oroondates* was scarce got on Horseback when he fell upon us, who finding his party too weak sounded a Retreat, and made it in very good order with the losse not of above

two or three hundred horse. The day began to breake, and the King my Master fearing to have the weaknesse of his forces discovered, ordered the hindmost Troopes to draw off by degrees, and facing and sustaining against *Artabazes* with the best mounted of his Cavalry, till he had performed his Retreat with some little losse by the Enemies pressing charges upon the reare.

But see and admire the Destiny of *Oroondates*; observe how miraculously all things contributed to that fatall affection. It was already broad day, and we were a good way off from the Enemies Trenches, endeavouring to overtake the grosse of our Army that retreated, when aside off from us, near to a little wood, we saw a matter of twenty horse in hot fight; we presently believed (as true it was) that some of the Enemy having engaged themselves too farre in pursuit of our Reare, and finding Resistance had opiniater'd the fight; notwithstanding *Oroondates* desirous to know the certainty, galloped up to them; we followed him, and were soon joint Witnesses with him of a spectacle that fill'd us all with admiration; It was a Persian Knight whose Armes were all enriched with Jewells, who though environ'd by above twenty of ours, did yet defend himselfe with so wonderfull a Courage, as made them almost despaire of vanquishing him; he had made himselfe a rampire of dead men and horses, but besides those which wee conceived he himselfe had kild, we saw thirty or forty as well Scythians as Persians lye dead about him; from which we collected that at the beginning there had bin more in the Combat, and that those

those who accompanied him having lost their lives in his defence, he was left single to dispute his own with that rare valour against such a number of Enemies; Wee all considered his bravery as prodigious, and had not our Prince; who onely could equall him, often let us see the like miracles, wee should have had some difficulty to believe our Eyes. The accession of our Company no whit daunted him, but being resolved rather to dye than yeeld, he resolved also to sell his life dearly, and breaking with fresh fury among the Scythians, he tumbled two more of them at his feet; at length finding that his horse pierced with many wounds did faint under him, he threw himselfe lightly off, and on foot still endeavoured to prolong his Destiny, by a resistance more than humane, when as our Prince already passionately taken with his vertue, and considering the danger he was in, prest into the midst of them, and making himselfe knowne to the Scythians; caused them to retire with respect, and not with shame to have bin found in so unequall a Combat. Cowards cryed he out unto them, have you so little sense of vertue, as that the bravery of this Warriour, does not rather move you to seek his preservation, than his ruine? and judging by the richnesse of his Armes, that he was a person of extraordinary quality, he alighted, and unlacing his helmet went to embrace him with great shewes of affection. Invincible Warriour (said he) pardon the brutallity of these men; that know not how to reverence in an other what they never found in themselves, and if you think that I may doe your service in causing you to be safe attended

to your Camp, I beg of you in lieu of all the rights of War that you will allow me a pretension to the honour of your friendship, and I shall in that happiness think my self most gloriously recompensed. The Persian infinitely surpris'd by an accostement and usage so extraordinary, & judging both by the excellent fashion of our Prince, and by the respect which was paid him, that he was a person of great quality, he unlaced his helmet also, and discovered unto us a face so beautifull, as made us almost lose the opinion we had that there was no man to be compar'd with *Oroondates*. Their Age was equall, their stature little differing, and we were apt to thinke that the Gods had design'd by so strange an encounter to bring together the most accomplisht persons in the world; they both gazed upon one another with wonder, but the Persian, highly oblig'd by the civility and magnanimity of my Prince, took his own sword by the point, and presenting it to him with great submission; Most generous Warriour (said he) hitherto I have disputed my life and liberty, but since I can never resigne up either to a gallanter person, I yeeld my selfe your Prisoner, with this satisfaction, not to have bin overcome by other than the worthyest of men. *Oroondates* retiring backward with much respect, The Gods forbid (said he) I should pretend to any other advantage by this encounter, than of that friendship which I have begg'd of you. You are as free as invincible; Unlessse you will allow your selfe to be so farre overcome by my desires to serve you, as to be thus engaged in some degree of kindnesse to a Prince who is already most sincerely
and

and passionately yours. The Persian not more confounded, than in love with *Oroondates* his vertue, embrac'd him a second time with infinite tenderness, and spake thus unto him with all the Emphasis that could be of affection; Now tis indeed that I find my selfe truly unhappy, since the Gods permit me to be so many severall wayes overcome, and that I cannot hope that they will ever afford me the meanes to acquit my selfe with any proportionable satisfaction of what I owe you, although if my destiny had cast me into any other mans power, I might have offered him Treasures and Provinces for my rancome, since I am *Artaxerxes*, sonne to *Darius*, and Heire to his Empires; for now Sir I should think it a crime to conceale any longer from you the name and condition of a Prince who owes you his life, and whom your favours, joyned to his strong Inclinations to love and honour you, have made entirely yours; Iudge Sir I beseech you, of the astonishment and joy of my Master at this discovery, and whether he were not likely to imagine that the Gods had taken a particular care of his happinesse, leading him to it by wayes so extraordinary; doubtesse of all the joyes that ever he tasted that was the greatest and most surprising one; notwithstanding he tooke much care to disguise the occasion, and to pay unto Prince *Artaxerxes* outwardly as Sonne to *Darius* those Respects which he inwardly meant him as brother to *Statira*. After this knowledge he renew'd unto him his protestations with more submission than before; and the young Prince of *Perſia* returned his endearments with so much interest, that over and a-

bove *Oroondates* his secret concernment in his Affection, the conformity of their persons and virtues, and the high value which those had excited mutually in one another had inflamed in them already a most ardent and reciprocall friendship; they had not power of themselves to period their Endearments, till *Oroondates* observing Prince *Artaxerxes* to bleed in sundry places, began to be deeply afflicted with it, and causing him to get up upon his owne horse, the goodliest of *Scythia*, which he forc'd him to accept, he call'd for another for himself, and conducting him in the way to *Darius* his Camp, *Artaxerxes* his pressures could not prevaile with our Prince to quit him, till he had brought him in sight of his owne retrenchments; that separation was heartily grievous to them both, but when they could no longer deferre it, and were taking their last leave, the Prince of *Persia* besought *Oroondates* by the most civill entreaties to let him know the name of his preserver if he had not some particular reason that obliged him to conceale it. But my Prince having already framed his designe, did not think fit as then to make himselfe known, but told him that he was *Oromes* Prince of the *Massagets*, a Subject and neare Kinsman of the King of *Scythia's*. *Artaxerxes* satisfied with that declaration, againe embracing him, quitted him at length with most sensible sorrow, nor was *Oroondates* lesse afflicted, but in recompence he conceived so great delight to have so fortunately served her Brother for whom he had already so great a passion, that he was hardly able to dissemble it. When we were returned to our Camp, the King who was in

in trouble for him, and had already learnt some part of his wonderfull Actions, received him with excessse of Joy; but causing him to be disarm'd in his presence, he discovered with great perplexity two or three wounds upon him, but they prov'd so light ones, that my Prince scarce kept his Chamber for them.

The rest of that Campagne there past nothing very memorable, and the cold beginning then to incommode the Armies, both began to think of retiring into their winter Quarters, there to expect, and to fit themselves for the field against the next season. The Persian Army dislodged first, and some skirmishes there were in the retreat, in which they received considerable losse; but the Winter, as I told you, pressing upon us, and those Countries being exhausted of forrage and all sorts of provisions, it was not thought fit to engage our selves farre in their pursuit; and the King seeing the Prince perfectly recovered, having issued his Orders and assigned the severall winter quarters for his Army, return'd with his Court to *Issedon* or *Serica* the City of *Scythia* where he keeps his most usuall Residence.

But the Prince though recovered in his bodily wounds, impair'd so in those of his minde, that he had almost cast off the hopes of recovery; he employed a thousand and a thousand times his strongest faculties and powers over himselfe to subdue in affection, in which he foresaw so much inconvenience, and so little hopes of satisfaction, he set before himselfe all the difficulties through which he must break, and all the dangers to which he saw

visibly he must expose himselfe ; and the conclusion of all his Reasoning and Philosophy was, much knowledge of his fault, and little hopes to mend it : Infortunate *Oroondates*, would he say, by what extraordinary meanes have the Gods determin'd thy Ruine ? And of what particular concernment to them does thy misery appeare, since they drive thee to it by waies so unusuall ? Was it not enough to make thee love with so much violence, but they must make thee also love with so much impossibility to be happy ? Miserable *Oroondates*, What canst thou hope ? What wilt thou doe ? What can become of thee ? Thinkest thou that the King of *Persia* can ever be induced to bestow his Daughter on his most mortall and irreconcilable Enemy ? Thinkest thou that he will pay with so precious a recompence the mischiefs which thine have wrought him ? Or that he will be so ungratefull to the death of so many thousands who have lost their lives in his quarrell ? Knowest thou not that the Warre between thy Father and him, is not of the nature of other Wars, not Interest of State, nor desire of Glory and Enlargement of Empire have been the foundation of their Animositie ; no, remember it is fixt to their persons, and to their Families ; *Matheas* would sacrifice willingly his Dominions to the destruction of *Darius*, and *Darius* would smile at the losse of all his subjects, if he might but involve *Matheas* in the Ruine : Hope not then after this Alliance by wayes of Gentleness, or Reconciliation, which never can be expected whilst either live, since *Darius* can never give his Daughter to the Sonne of *Matheas*, nor *Matheas*
ever

ever suffer his Sonne to wedd the Daughter of *Darius*. What then canst thou pretend to, Fond Man ! Since those wayes are forbidden ? Thinkest thou to conquer her by Armes, and to constrain *Darius* the greatest and most powerfull of Kings, to grant thee that by force, which ought not to be obtained but by services and submissions ? Suppose these difficulties overcome, (which is not in the power of man) hadst thou then vanquishd the will of *Matheas*, and canst thou then hope to wrest from him by violence, what thou canst not hope he will ever consent to ? nay when by miracle thou shouldest have surmounted all these obstacles, would not there yet remaine the most dangerous and invincible difficulty ? canst thou believe that that Princeesse who hath suckt her Parents hatred with her milk, and who hath bin bred up in her fathers Court, where the Scythian Kings name is never mentioned but with horror and detestation, can cast off the resentments of nature, to love the hereditary Enemy of her house ? Thus reasoned *Oroondates* upon all the crosses which he foresaw in his affection. And these considerations tormented him with so much violence, that a lesse courage than his would certainly have languishd and fainted under them. But as he had that invincible, and capable of the greatest things, and apt to be the more inflamed with difficulties, he overlookt them all, and founding his hopes upon his fortunate beginnings, upon the friendship of *Artaxerxes*, whom he had so highly and so handsomly obliged, upon the favour of the Queen and of the Princeesse her selfe (whom he had not onely defended from violence but used

with so great respect and generosity, though they were his lawfull Prisoners of Warre) and upon the probability that *Darius* himselfe, who had a Kingly soule, might not be insensible of such meritorious Offices, as possibly he had never received from the best of his friends, he began to dissipate his former fears; and joyning to these considerations the force of his passion, and the impossibility of mastering it, he launcht himselfe still further and further in that Ocean wherein he hath suffered so many tempests for the space of these ten years. In fine, after long contestation with himselfe, seeing the Army disencamp, and that the King his father intended the very next day to repasse the *Araxis*, he tooke one of the strangest resolutions, that I think ever fell into any Princes imagination, and sending for me that night to his bed side, having commanded all the rest to goe out, he spake thus unto me, in a tone that made me expect somewhat extraordinary; *Araxes* said he, if among all those that belong to me I had not taken very particular notice of your courage, wit and affections, I should not have made choice of you to trust you with the secret of my life, and to employ you, and you alone, in the designe on which all the happinesse of my future dayes entirely depends; But having carefully considered your person, and all your actions in my service, I finde you have parts and dexterity enough to serve me in the waitiest affaires, courage enough to accompany me in the greatest dangers, and which is above all, such a fidelity as I can never distrust. This obliging discourse made me cast myselfe at his feet with such protestations of my faithfulness,

fulnesse, as exprest also my zeale to serve him ; so that raising me from the ground, with many embraces he discovered unto me his passion, and the designe which he had newly formed to himselfe, such as you shall understand in the following discourse : and having given me such directions as he thought necessary, he commanded me presently to be gone about them, which I did with infinite joy in the honour he was pleased to doe me, but with great amazement at his strange resolution. I chose out the four best horses of his stable, one for him, another for my self, and two for two servants, of whose trustinesse I was well assured, by whom onely it was his pleasure to be accompanied in his intended Iourney. Having ordered his little Equipage, and made all things ready for our departure the next morning, I returned to the Prince in his Tent, who instead of sleeping had employed his time in writing a Letter to the King his father, in these very termes as I remember.

*The Prince Oroondates to the King
of Scythia.*

SIR

I Should not have presumed to leave your Majesty, but that I finde you resolved to passe most part of this yeare in your Cities out of action. I most humbly beseech you by all the affection wherewith you have hitherto bin pleased to honour me, to pardon the liberty which I take to absent my selfe upon a short Iourney during that season of rest and idlenesse. I am forc'd from you by the passi-

ons

ons of a young man, desirous to forme himselfe in other Countryes, and to learn those things, of wick it becomes not the sonne of such a father to be ignorant; My Iourney shall not exceed the space of this Winter, and as soon as you shall take the field, I shall not faile to attend you there, to performe those services which you ought to expect from your Sonne Oroondates. Having finished this letter he wrote another to his Sister the Princeesse Berenice, of whom I have not yet said any thing, though a person deserving in her sexe as high a Character as her Brother in his; Since for beauty, wit, and vertue, neither the present nor past ages have produced a piece of greater perfection. The King since the death of his Queen, whom he had lost many yeares before, had made it his speciall care to give her an education suitable to her birth, and to those rare qualities with which Nature had enricht her. Her Brother who loved her most dearly would not leave her without a kinde farewell by Letter; and so having sealed them both, he gave them to one of his servants, with a speciall Command to deliver them to his father after foure dayes were past. When he had finished these dispatches, having sent out of his Tent all Persons whom he might any wise suspect, he took the best of his Jewels, and the most portable money he had, to serve his occasions, and having given them me to keep, and fitted himselfe with an excellent suit of Armes, the night being well nigh spent in these occupations, a little before day he got a horseback and set forth the direct way to Persopolis on the tract of the Persian Army dislodged some dayes before. I shall not tell you with what griefe both the
Scythian

Scythian King and the Princeſſe *Berenice* received the newes of my Prince's departure, ſo deare them both, ſince you may eaſily imagine it, and it being not at all pertinent to the enſuing ſtory; neither ſhall I detain you with any relation of the particularities of our Journey, in which we met with no extraordinary accidents, it would weary you too much, beſides the many rare and important things which I muſt acquaint you with, doe drive out of my memory paſſages of leſſe conſequence. It ſhall ſuffice to tell you; that the next day after our departure we took upon us the Perſian habit, of which we had before provided our ſelves, and having facility enough in that language, we paſſ'd without much difficulty both thorough the Perſian Townes, and thorough thoſe ſcattered Troops which we met upon the way diſperſing to their ſeverall garrifons. We travelled at a great rate, marching whole dayes without reſting, but when obliged by neceſſity; at length after a tedious Journey we came to *Perſepolis* where the King and his Court were arrived ſome few daies before us, and where for the moſt part he kept his reſidence, it being indeed the faireſt City of *Aſia*; and if the Actions of your great *Alexander* may be cenſured in any thing, he deſerves it in this, that he conſented to the firing and deſtruction of the moſt magnificent and glorious Palace of the World. My Prince was raviſht with joy to finde himſelfe at his Journeys end, and having taken a houſe in the Towne, we there unwearied our ſelves for ſome dayes, ſtudying in that time how beſt to conſorme our ſelves to the faſhions and Cuſtomes of the Country,

Country, and to informe our selves of such things as we thought most requisite, till heaven should afford my Master a faire occasion of discovering himselfe to the Prince *Artaxerxes*. And it was not long ere there presented it self as glorious a one as could be wisht, the newes of which our Host first gave us to the great Contentment of my Prince, who was resolved not to discover himselfe but seasonably and to his best advantage; we understood by him that within three or foure dayes the Kings birth day was to be celebrated after the Persian manner, according to the custome also of many other nations; and that to divert the Ladyes from the late Objects of Warre, and to give them Testimonies of their gallantry, *Artaxerxes* and other young noble men, had obtained leave of the King to set up a Tourney & combat on horseback, to which all commers should be admitted, and of which the prize should be received from the Princess *Statyra* herselfe; that kinde of combat had bin long practised among the Persians, and of late yeares among us; it is after this manner, Two Knights compleatly armed with great and strong, but blunted lavelins, runne at one another with full carriere, and meeting in the middle of their course, encounter with their targets and lavelins with so much impetuosity, that of necessity if their darts breake not, one of them must come to ground, the Vanquisher is obliged to sustaine the charge of a second, third, and of as many more as will undertake the tryall, till either himselfe is overthrown, or that he hath no more Antagonists to combate; if he be overborn, he that hath the advantage

advantage is obliged to the same Conditions, til the last victorious is carried to receive the prize of his bravery with great pomp and magnificence. *Oroondates* who knew well the Rights of this Combat, and who both in this and all other exercises was one of the most vigorous Cavaliers in the World, thanked the Gods for presenting him so faire an occasion of appearing with eminence in that Court, and letting his Princeſſe (whom he adored) ſee with what rare graces and advantages the Gods had bleſſed him, he reſolved not to loſe ſo lucky an opportunity, but having given me all neceſſary orders for his Equipage, he diſpoſed himſelfe with much joy for that dayes celebration; no ſooner did the light of that wiſht morning appear, than he was up, and calling for his Armes; when our Hoſt advertiſed us that it was not to be till after the Kings dinner, but that that would be haſtened, that there might be the more time for the entertainment. Why ſhould I hold you longer in expectation of that which my Maſter then expected with ſuch Impatience? the wiſht-for hour being come, *Oroondates* compleatly armed vaulted up lightly on his horſe, and went directly to the Piazza accompanied by none but my ſelfe; the Pompe and magnificence of that glorious Aſſembly entertained his eyes a while; but ſeeing the King, Queen, and Princeſſes arriv'd, he diſdained all other Objects to fix them upon the moſt noble ones; and having ſought out her with his outward eyes, which was everlaſtingly preſent to thoſe of his ſoul, he miſken'd her not in the luſtre of thoſe glorious ornaments in which ſhe then ſhin'd; and ſhe who
in

in a slight travelling habit by candle light, and in the frights and apprehensions of captivity, he had found so charming, being thus adorn'd with Jewells and all the Arts of dressing at noon day, and upon a scaffold so eminent and so nobly enricht, appear'd to him so glorious and triumphant, that his wounds bled afresh, and his flames received an excessse of augmentation; he was all intranc'd in the consideration of her; and had not the sound of the Trumpets call'd him from his raptures unto the thoughts of that designe which brought him thither, he had certainly spent all the day in that Contemplation; her sister *Parisatis* sat by her little inferiour to *Statira* either in beauty of the body, qualities of the mind, or outward ornaments; the *Queens* were plac'd a little above them, and the King accompanied with his brother *Oxiartes*, *Artabazus*, *Mazus*, & many Satraps, whose Age dispens'd them from those violent exercises, were upon another scaffold by themselves, a little distant from the Ladies. Our Prince having with much difficulty drawn his eyes from where they had bin so long fixt. saw the Prince *Artaxerxes* at the head of all the young gallants mounted upon that same horse which he had presented him at their last separation, and armed in white Armour without any Impreza. After that the Orders were given for the first courses, they were begun and continued at the sound of many Trumpets to the great contentment of the spectators, and to the praise of many brave young Knights, who there gave Testimonies of their force and dexterity. I shall not trouble you with particulars other than such

as are of importance to my Masters part, and to the sequell of my discourle. You must know then that after many a faire Course the honour was remaining unto *Cambyfes* the Sonne of *Mazeus*, who as my Master, having not the patience to forbear any longer, advanc'd into the lists; at the instant the whole Assembly fixt their eyes upon him; and truly (Sir) the posture wherein I then considered him pleas'd me to such a degree as I cannot chuse but in a few words describe it to you: His whole Armour was composed as it were of little scales of silver, edg'd with gold; and in the most remarkable places enrich and heightened with Jewells of great lustre and value; the border of his arming-Coate, which descending from the bottom of his armes, cover'd his thighes downe somewhat below the knees, was of an orient pearle, embroidered with flames of gold, of most rare and artificiall workmanship, his sleeve which issuing forth of a Moughon of gold, in the forge of a Lions Jawes, cover'd his Arme to the elbow, was of the same; his buskins were of leather, silver'd like scales, and bordered with gold like his armour, which reacht halfe way his legge, and were there stopt, as it were by such Moughons of gold as I described upon his sleeves, with buckles of Rubies most exactly set, his Head-peece fram'd also of scales, was cover'd with a Dragon of silver, with the Crest, Wings and Talents of gold breathing out of his mouth instead of fire such goodly flame-colour plumes, as all my Masters head and shoulders were cover'd with them, yet not so but that one might easily discover that rich scarfe which had bin given him
by

by the Queen Wife to *Darius*, it suited excellently with the rest of his Equipage, and at it was hung a rich Cemiter, the finest of *Scythia*, both for the blade and curious workmanship of the hilts; his horse was black as Jet, with onely a starr of white in his forehead, so goodly, so proud, vigorous, and full of action, as added a speciall life to the grace, spirit and dexterity of the Rider, who made him goe with so much skill and vigour, and charge him as it were into the lists, with so much noble fierceneesse and majesty, as I believe made all the hearts of the spectators, as much set upon him as their eyes. *Cambyfes* not disdaining an Adversary of so goodly a presence, received him in the midst of the Carriere with more courage than good fortune; for having not so much as shaken him, he was borne from his saddle with so much violence quite over the horses Crooper, as that he left the entire print of his body upon the sand; *Cambyfes* his fall having bin received with a great exclamation of the Assembly, *Oroondates* past thorough, and compleated his Carriere with an admirable grace, and having overthrown two or three more with the same facility, *Hydaspes* the Sonne of *Artabazus*, impatient and jealous of his honour, presented himselfe at the end of the list; my Prince beheld him with joy, and just as *Hydaspes* parted at the sound of the Trumpets, he did the like, coming upon him like lightning; the course was indeed eminently well performed on both sides; my Prince soundly shaken with the shocke of *Hydaspes*, lost both his stirrups, but he encountred *Hydaspes* with so much violence, that raising him quite from his saddle, he
bore

bore him at least six yards beyond his Horse, and having most gracefully furnisht out that Carriere, he afterwards overturn'd *Bessus* and *Nabarsanes*, that *Bessus* and *Nabarsanes* the two Monsters of their Age, who afterwards by a most treacherous Parricide imbrued their hands in the blood of their Prince; my Master having overthrown them, did the like to *Myrtanes*, to *Megabifus*, *Oxidates*, *Avorbarfanes*, *Tradates*, *Oritales*, and *Cobortan*; and glorious in this good successe, disposed himselfe to receive the valiant *Memnon*, who inflamed with the love of *Bersina*, Daughter to *Ariabazes*, and Sister to *Hydaspes*, was preparing himselfe to repaire her Brothers Misfortune; they were both well known to you. *Bersina* afterwards Widdow to *Memnon*, was thought worthy of a passion from *Alexander*; And great *Memnon* performed such glorious Actions against the Conquerour, as must ever be memorable among the Persians. The Prince of *Scythia* not ignorant of the high Reputation, the man who was already far advanc'd in Military charges, recollected all his Forces, to preserve against so eminent an Adversary the Honour which he had gained against *Hydaspes*; and meeting him in the midst of his Carriere, the violence of the encounter was such, as their Javelins being shiver'd in a thousand pieces, their Horses were not able to sustaine so terrible a shock, but were driven back upon their haunches even to the ground, from whence being raised by the Spur with difficulty enough, they both finisht their Carriere without giving any evidence of advantage on either side. The bravery of the Course was solem-

E

nized

nized with a generall Shout, and those who knew the Force and Valour of *Memnon*, began to looke upon my Master with admiration, whilst he alone despised himselfe, and prest with griefe and shame, took a new Dart by *Memnon's* example, and both starting again with more impetuosity than before, made the Spectators admire how any thing could exceed the fury of their first encounter, but the success was very differring from that, *Oroondates* was rudely shaken, but the valiant *Memnon* having reeled a good while in his Saddle, fell down at length under his Horses belly. This fall raised a new and universall Acclamation of wonder, which redoubling my Prince's Courage deprived almost all that remained untryed, of theirs. But the Prince *Artaxerxes* already passionately in love with the gallantry of my Master, would needs make tryall of it also, and was advancing with that designe, when he saw *Relaxes* in the Carriere, and *Spirridates* at one end of the Lists, ready to succeed him that should be overthrown. They were those two brave Warriours who so much endanger'd great *Alexander* himself at the passage of the River *Granica*, and who were slaine in that Battell, the one by *Alexander* himself, the other by *Clitus*. As they were both gallant persons, they much disordered my Prince, but being overthrown at the first course they made way to the impatience of the Prince of *Persia*, who in fine turned about his Horse to begin his Carriere against the victorious *Oroondates*. Here it was that the whole Assembly resounded with an universall shout, and that all the Spectators already become Idolaters of my Master's Valour,

four, and founding their last, and all their hopes in their Prince's bravery, in great suspense for the successe, had fixt their eyes upon the wonderfull course of those two incomparable Warriours. They started at the third signall of the Trumpets, but being ready to joine, my Prince resolved not to hazzard the Prince of *Persia*, threw away his Javelin, and covering himselfe with his Target, reinforced himselfe all he could in his Saddle, to receive the blow from so powerfull a hand; *Artaxerxes* his Dart flew into a thousand shivers, and had it not glided upon his Target, certainly my Prince had runne much hazzard in the encounter; for his Horse was so stunn'd with the shock, as that he gave ground back five or six paces, ready to touch the ground with his haunches, but my Master recovering, and new animating him with the Spur, and resetting himselfe in his saddle, gracefully finished his Carriere without much shew of disorder: All the world observed his Actions, and the King himselfe having considered it, exprest both his approbation of it, and his high estimation of the gallant Warriour, by a very applauding Action with his hands: But the Prince *Artaxerxes* having perceived it as well as the rest, and having not been able by reason of the surprise, and swiftnesse of his Horse, to expresse to him the same civility, turned about a little mov'd, and accosting him gently, yet with a manifest resentment of his Action, said unto him, I know not, Sir, what moved you to spare me; if it was out of any undervalue, I doe not think my selfe so little considerable, but that my Adversary may thinke all his force is needfull a-

gainst me; but if it were out of any consideration of Friendship, I acknowledge the obligation, and begge your pardon for the vaine attempt of my Armes against you. My Prince finding now the happiest occasion that he could have wished, to discover himselfe, taking the Prince's hand, and bowing down to his Horses neck with great submission, spake unto him in a voice more raised than usuall; Sir, he that is resolved never to bear Arms but for your service, will never use them against you, and is not come this far to seek you, to give you Testimonies so contrary to his resolution of being entirely yours. I cannot undervalue a Vertue of which I have already had such high proofs, but since it hath made an entire acquisition of me, disdain not the zealous affection of one who has dedicated all the rest of his life to your person and service. *Artaxerxes* more confounded than before with this excesse of civility, threw his armes about his neck, and passionately embracing him, Whoever you are (said he) though you were the King of *Scythia* himselfe, I am already perfectly yours; the knowledge of your vertue, and the obligations which you have given me, have fastned me so powerfully to you, that nothing can make a separation: but for Gods sake, continued he (unlacing his Helmet) conceale not longer from me the face, nor name of a person who has already gained my heart, and to whom I have vowed my entirest affections. I shall obey you, replied *Oroontes*; and although they are both little known unto you, yet perhaps they may recall to your thoughts the Idea of a Person whom out of pure goodnesse

goodness you did not long since promise to honour with a place in your memory. Having said this, he no sooner unlaced his Helmet, but his rare beauty and youth producing their usuall effects, drew upon him the eyes and the wonder of all the Assembly. *Artaxerxes* dazzled with so extraordinary an object, knew him not at first, but having observed him a while, and recalling to minde both his voice and feature, he was struck with such a suddaine Joy and Amazement, as being unable to expresse them either by words or gesture, he remained a good while dumbe and without motion. As soon as his astonishment was dissipated, and that his joy alone kept possession of his soul, he brake forth into an outcry and tears of gladnesse which he could not possibly suppress, and lifting up his hands and eyes to Heaven, Great Gods (said he) moderate your favours towards me, if you will not have me either dye or forget my selfe; and having ended these few words, he threw himselfe into the Armes of *Oroondates*, embracing him at the same time in his, with so much vehemence, as clearly exprest unto my Prince with what passion he loved him. My deare *Orantes* (said he) kissing him a thousand times, Is it possible that it is you indeed, and that really I see and embrace you? Great Gods, if it be a Dream, make it last eternally, and let me never wake; and interrupting and mingling these words with all imaginable endearments, he would not likely have been able in a long time to recover himself from the raptures of his pleasure and passion, had not the King (who could see their Actions from his Scaffold, but

could not hear what they said) sent him word by *Bagans* that he desired to partake in his delight, and in the knowledge of that gallant Stranger. *Artaxerxes* no sooner received this Command, but taking *Oroondates* by the hand, he led him to the King his Father with a countenance expressing such excessse of joy, as made all the world judge, that there was some extraordinary occasion for it. Both being alighted, they ascended the Scaffold, and my Prince kneeling down upon the ground to salute the King after the Persian manner, *Artaxerxes* said to him, Sir, to oblige you to pay unto this Stranger the honour due to him, it will suffice to tell you, that it is the Prince of the *Messagetes*. *Darius* who had before understood from his Son the obligation he had to that Prince, appeared little lesse surpris'd than he, and rising from his seat with a sudden Joy, he raised him from the ground, and embracing him with great tenderesse, and multiplying endearments upon him, he every minute observed in him things so farre above other men, as he could not put an end to his kindnesse. My Sonne, said he, (for so I may justly call you, by whose generosity I possesse him that the Gods have given me) what designe soever hath brought you to my Court, be assured that you are most welcome thither, and that in affording me the knowledge of one of those two admirable persons, whom I have so ardently desired to see, you doe me as great a pleasure, as when you preserved and restored unto me my onely Sonne *Artaxerxes*. If the Gods who have bestowed Empires upon me had not given you also a vertue to disdain such ac-
know-

knowledge, I should tender unto you with much reality a part of them ; but since all that I possesse is so much below you, I can but offer you our hearts, and an eternall passion to make you by all that is in our powers a returne in some degree proportionable to your generosity.

My Prince replyed to this obliging Discourse with infinite respect and submission, considering both the person of the greatest King in the World, the Friendship which he exprest unto him, and the advantages which he expected by it. *Darius* having againe kist his cheek (which is the most eminent favour among the Persians) would needs himself present him to the Ladies, and having conducted him to their Scaffold. Ladies (said he) give the prize to this Prince, not only of the Courtes, but of the life and liberty of *Artaxerxes* : Before they could reply, *Artaxerxes* told them more clearly my Prince pretended name and quality, and those great Princesses seized with such an unlookt-for Contentment, received him with such unexpressible testimonies of kindnesse ; the Queen embraced him, and the Princesses (more reserved) saluted him with great civility : After this obliging reception, the Princess *Statyra* by the Kings command gave my Prince the prize of that daies Exercise, which was a Bracelet of precious Stones, the curioustiest set, and the fairest of *Asia*. After a civill contestation with the Prince *Artaxerxes*, to whom he would needs have yeelded that honour, he kneeled down to receive it, and there it was that all the Ladies considering him more nearly, imagined that they saw before them the same person, from whom they

had received so high an obligation, and of whom they still preserved precious the *Idæa*. Whilst they were yet in doubt, the Queen casting her eye upon the Scarfe which she had given him, and observing in it the Cyphers of her own and *Darius* his name, transportedly cryed out, Great Gods it is too much, it is too much, and shewing the Scarfe to *Sysigambis*, and the Princeesses, she quite unsealed their eyes, upon which sure knowledge of him, they all at once raised such a suddain outcry, as stroke both the King and all the Assembly with Amazement, and then beginning to wonder at themselves that they could have been so long in doubt, It is he, cryed out *Sysigambis*, it is he; Yes Madam, replied the Prince, it is I, who having been guilty of an irreverence towards you unworthy of pardon, bring hither a life to submit to punishment, not to pretend to reward. She was going to reply, when the King and Prince informed of the occasion of their wonder, and transported beyond Imagination, interrupted them, to cumulate upon him honours and endearments inexpressible. *Oxiartes*, *Artabazus*, *Mazeus*, and all the other principall persons about *Darius*, saluted him with great professions of respect and friendship. *Memnon* also, and *Hydaspes* at the head of those whom he had dismounted, passed high Complements upon him, and profest with joy to have been foyled by no other hand but that which had in one night preserved the whole family of *Darius*. The King gave him almost no other Title but of the tutelary Angell of his house; and I remember well that at that time, he let fall to those about him, these propheticall expressions;

expressions; It is impossible (said he) but that a happinesse so excessive, and so unlookt-for, must carry with it secret menaces of some strange misfortune. But dwelling little upon any such imagination, he mounted on his Chariot, and would needs have *Oroondates* accompany him in it to the Palace, where he assign'd him an Appartment, notwithstanding my Prince's endeavours to excuse himselfe from receiving so unufall an honour. When they were there arrived, the King took *Artaxerxes* and my Master into his Closet, where being alone with them; It is impossible, said he to my Prince, that being a Kinsman and Subject of the King of *Scythia's*, you can have quitted his Court, and retir'd to that of his mortall and irreconcilable Enemy, but upon some extraordinary Considerations. I pray conceale them not from me, and be confident that what occasion soever brings you hither, you have not onely a secure retreat, but all kind of power here. My Prince having most humbly thankt the King for such obliging Expressions, framed unto him this premeditated Discourse; God is my witnesse, Sir, that in the two small services which I have had the honour to doe your Family, I never had any other consideration than that of my Duty, and of the respect to which I thought my selfe obliged towards such illustrious Persons; and that I was never so vaine, as to aspire to that glorious recompence which I now receive. Notwithstanding, those persons with whom I was most conversant, and whom I should have thought least capable of suspecting me, made not that judgment of it which I might have expected; but on the

the contrary, as soon as I came back to the King, I found my self calumniated and traduced for those two Actions, even by those who accompanied me in them. Whether it were that their brutality disapproved what was so opposite to their nature, or that they envied me in so great a favour of the Gods, or, as it is most probable, that they contracted the Malignity against me, for having debarred them of the booty which they hoped for from two prizes of that Importance. What ever the matter were, they accused me of Treason, and of Intelligence with you, and by their arts so exasperated the King against me, that he resolved to put me to death. I received divers Advertisements of it from severall of my friends, but despised them all, over-confident of my Innocence, till one day walking with the Prince of *Scythia* (that young Prince who hath ever loved me, and with whom I have alwayes been bred up) and being withdrawn by him into a private walke where none could observe his Action, he wrote in the Earth with the point of a Javelin which he had in his hand, these words, which I read as he drew them, *Fly Oronces, fly; for thou art a dead man; nay but fly to day, if thou wilt not dye to morrow;* And having trod out the writing with his foot, as soon as he perceived that I had read it, he left me in the confusion you may imagine, and went back to his company. This advice had more power over me than all the rest, and made me beleeve, that the Prince having been obliged by some Oath not to tell his Fathers secret, had served himselfe of this device to save me, without provoking the Gods against himself.

In

In fine, my eyes being opened, and seeing the danger that threatned me, I stole away that night with the least Retinue that possibly I could, but without any other design, than of avoyding for the present the unjust anger of the King ; the next day being got a good way from the Camp, the goodness of the Prince of *Persia* came into my thoughts, and what promises he was pleased to make me for that slight service which I had the fortune to doe him ; I called also to minde the happinesse I had had in my rencounter with the Queens, and imagining with my self, that since I was disgraced meerly upon those two occasions, it would become me well enough to seek my refuge with you, and that your goodnesse would not refuse protection to an innocent Prince so banisht from his Country by the false suggestions of his Enemies ; I resolved upon this course wherein I now find my self so happy by your favour. Some other things he added to this Discourse, which I cannot so particularly call to minde, but *Darius* his Reply I well remember to this effect, Generous Prince, if we did not receive too much advantage by your Misfortunes, we should partake with you in the sense of them: But what obligation soever we have to you, we cannot easily divest our selves so of our own interest as not to rejoyce in whatsoever hath brought us so great a Contentment. If the King of *Scythia* were not mine Enemy, yet I am obliged by so many considerations to protect you, that be confident I would hazard my Empires and my life it self in your defence, and since it were most unjust that you alone should be made unhappy meerly for having

ving obliged me and mine with so much generosity, be assured that you shall finde with us conditions as advantageous as *Scythia* could afford you; and for the Province of the *Messagetes* which you lose, I shal give you your choice of the best of mine, without pretending thereby to oblige you either to reveale unto me the secrets of your Prince, or to take up Armes against him. My Prince casting himselfe at his feet, and having acknowledg'd with deep respect his favour, soon after withdrew to his Apartment, where he found every thing in order that belonged to his Honour and Accommodation. He had forthwith an Equipage seled proportionable to his true quality, with so great pensions for his entertainment, as he could hardly have been in more Princely posture in his Fathers Court. And thus was my Prince fixt with *Darius*, with so much satisfaction in his successfull beginnings, as quite banisht all sense of the danger to which he exposed himselfe, and of the difficulties which he was yet to contend with. I had forgot to tell you, that the name which he tooke upon him was not an imaginary appellation; for the *Messagetes* had indeed a Prince of that name, of the Age of *Oroondates*, alwaies bred up with him, and little inferiour to any but himselfe in the promises of a most eminent Vertue, had the Gods prolong'd his life, but he was unfortunately lost at the first passage of the River *Araxis*, by the breaking of a Bridge of Boates, which most unfortunately sunk under him, and divers others who perisht with him; for this reason my Princethought fit to continue still that name which he had taken upon him when he
first

first met with *Artaxerxes*, beleeving that in case the newes of it should arrive to *Scythia*, he might happily passe for the true *Orontes* escapt from that disaster, since it was true that what diligence soever had been used, that gallant young Prince's body could never yet be found.

In the mean while the King of *Persia*, who really was one of the best, and most generous of Kings, finding himselfe so highly obliged to my Master, sought to acknowledg his services by such eminent Testimonies of his favour and friendship, as might serve for his example to posterity, and as a powerfull stimulation even to the coldest affections to serve him. He cumulated upon him so great favours and benefits, and honour'd him with such charges, and all other the highest assurances of his affection, as within a short time, neither *Memnon*, *Mazeus*, *Artabazus*, nor *Oxiartes* himself were in higher consideration in that Court than he; abundance of persons, especially those who had observed his obliging nature, made their sole applications to this new Favourite, who had indeed Charms irresistible for the alteration of hearts, and Chaines indissolvable, to fasten to him all those whom he had once acquired; he did distribute whatsoever he received of *Darius* among such persons of merit as were necessitous, to such a degree as that to pursue his bountifull Inclinations, he did even incommode himselfe in his own domestique occasions, how noble soever were his entertainment, all persons pretending either to Charges or Pensions, made their Addresse to him alone; and though towards the King he made
use

use of his favour with great modesty, never asking him any thing but with blushing and confusion, yet he proceeded with so much grace and dexterity, as without appearing troublesome and importunate to him, there were few that sought his favour, whom he did not finde some way to oblige and satisfie; this way of his had an effect very extraordinary in the mindes of Courtiers, who forcing the enviousnesse of their nature, lookt upon his fortune with joy and applause, insomuch as that for a thousand Adorers which he had procur'd, we could never discover that he had rais'd himselfe one Enemy; whether it were that they perceived him to be without ambition or passion for his own greatnesse; or that the wonderfull Ascendent which he has over the mindes of all that know him freed him from them; or whether it were, as is most likely, that all men finding him a person so prone to oblige, thought that the power of doing it could not be better plac'd.

The Queens and Princeesses led to it by gratitude, and by their inclination to so great Vertue, as also by the Kings Command, did vye with one another which should oblige him most; and did even lay aside that gravity and reservednesse which is usuall with the Persian Ladies of their quality, to give him the great proofes of their estimation. In all Assemblies they publicly exprest their transcendent value of him; and he was allowed (contrary to their custome) free acesse into their Chambers, and more private conversations. In a word, by the Kings positive will and command he liv'd with them almost in the same manner as the

the Prince *Artaxerxes*; yet all the demonstrations of kindnesse which he received from the King, the Ladies, and all the Nobles of *Persia* were faint in comparison of the Prince's friendship; he resign'd up his heart so absolutely to my Master, and engag'd himselfe in so perfect and strict a union with him, as never any two Lovers linkt themselves together with so violent a passion: It was a wonder ever to see them asunder, whether a Hunting, at their Exercises, or in visiting the Ladies. In the beginning *Oroondates* observ'd that distance towards him, which he thought became a Prince of the *Messagetes* towards the great Prince of *Persia*, but in the end, *Artaxerxes* having often exprest, that such Ceremonies were displeasing to him, and conjuring my Prince to quit them, he was in fine after much contestation enforc'd to live with him with as much equality as he could have done, if his true Condition had bin known. This liberty at length quite overcame *Oroondates*, and made him resigne himselfe up to that friendship from which he hath since reapt such sensible afflictions. I must needs confesse unto you that the Sunne never saw any thing more lovely than *Artaxerxes*; nor have I in this Discourse attributed to my Master any qualities that were not in as great an excellence in the unfortunate young Prince. You have already heard somewhat of his valour; his beauty was wonderful, and his goodnesse beyond that; and he had in all his Actions a grace so extraordinary, as it was impossible to know him and not to love him. I cannot at all wonder that he should tye my Master to him by chaines so indissolvable, since

I my felie have bin charm'd by his merit, so, as that his memory must ever live in me both with passion and reverence. This sad remembrance drawing some teares from *Araxes* his eyes, *Lyfimachus* who all that while had bin fixt with a strange attention to his Discourse, coming to himselfe as it were out of dreame, into which his wonder at the recitation of such rare things had cast him; I take great part with you (said he) in your grieve, what ever be the occasion; but you have told me such admirable adventures, and wherein I finde my selfe likely to have so great a share, that I cannot possibly expresse the amazement you have brought upon me. But I pray pursue your discourse, and fear not Interruption.

It is true (resumed *Araxes*) that the Prince of *Scybia* receiv'd some satisfaction in the great kindnesses of *Artaxerxes*, of *Darius*, and of all his family, and did constrain himselfe all that was possible to expresse the sense he had of them; but his love infinitely augmented by frequentation of the Princessse *Statyra*, found little nourishment in their and *Artaxerxes* his favours, (with which he was in a manner overwhelm'd) how estimable soever in themselves, began to trouble and oppress him, whilst all his thoughts were fixt on that object of his passion: he saw his Princessse every day, entertain'd her with much liberty, and was lookt upon by her with a very favourable eye, that great and vertuous Princessse thinking her selfe obliged to lay aside much of her severity, to afford all the countenance she might to the preserver of her Royall family; besides that the rare qualities of
my

my Matter having already produc'd in her part of their usuall effects, had made no slight impressions upon a minde predispos'd by so powerfull Obligations. This frequent conversation soone compleated my poore Prince's losse of himselfe; for every day discovering in the mind and disposition of that divine person, charmes farre exceeding those which he found in her face, he gave himselfe over so entirely to his passion, that he lost in it much of the greatnesse of his heart, but altogether his quiet: the liberty he was allowed served but to encrease his melancholy, and all that he could doe for himselfe in his present condition, was, with much agony to study patience, and to expect the pleasure of the Gods, without attempting any thing for reliefe. To expresse his love to her as *Orontes*, he saw little reason for that, and no hopes at all of a favourable reception; to discover himselfe he thought would entirely ruine his designs, and expose his life unto too evident a hazard; which notwithstanding he would not at all have considered, could he have discover'd but the least light of hopes in that intention. These considerations which he often did me the honour to communicate unto me, made him resolve as yet to conceale himselfe, and to try whether, as *Orontes*, he could by degrees advance in the Princesses Inclinations, till such time as being assured of them, and having gain'd yet a further and more absolute Interest in the King, by some new and eminent services, he might see somewhat more of hopes, and lesse of danger, in declaring himselfe.

In the mean while he continued his visits, and
F
entertain'd

entertain'd the Princeſſe with ſuch reſpect and reſervedneſſe, and with diſcourſes ſo remote from his paſſion, that if ſometimes his ſighes did not betray him, it was hard for her to diſcover it; tis true, that he diligently watched the occaſions to do any thing that might pleaſe her, and to render her thoſe leſſer and more frequent ſervices, of which the care and aſſiduity is not uſuall to perſons indifferent; neither could he hinder his eyes from ſpeaking ſo, as would have bin very intelligible to any that had once ſound themſelves concern'd; but his lips were ſtill ſilent, and his tongue tyed up by ſo deep a reſpect, that they reſign'd up all their function to his eyes, and to his heart all the torment of that temerity whereof he himſelfe accus'd it; he remained two or three monthes upon theſe termes, and his diſquiets made daily ſuch a change in his nature, that growing by degrees unfociable, and ill humour'd, he became at length ſuch, as one could hardly have known him. When ever I would undertake to comfort him, and to condemn his weakneſſe, he would answer me with nothing but ſighes and groanes, which wounding my ſoule with grieve made me deteſt and curſe that fatall paſſion; his body ſoon participated in the malady of his minde, and his lovely complexion and plumpneſſe giving way to leanneſſe and fallowneſſe, he had in a ſhort time little left of that beauty & luſtre ſo admired by the Perſians. *Artaxerxes* who perceived ſo ſtrange a change took much paines to learne the occaſions of it; but *Oroondates* deluding him ſtill with ſome fiction or other perſiſted to diſguiſe the truth by all the pretences wherewith
his

his invention could turnish him. *Artaxerxes* at first laboured to divert him by all kinde of passe-times and exercises; but finding his endeavour fruitlesse, he grew to participate in his sadnesse, to such a degree, as that my Master knowing his affection by prootes so visible was faine to constrain himselfe all he could before him, and forc'd his countenance to expresse that oftentimes for his satisfaction which was furthest from his heart. The King who lov'd him dearly, did his utmost to please him, and the Queenes and Princesses omitted no kinde of divertisement which they thought might withdraw him from that deep Melancholy; wherein all the Court was so much concern'd. One night, when the King was in the Queen-Mothers side with the Queen his Wife, the Princesses his Daughters, and all the chiefe beauties of the Court, the company having entertained it selfe a great while in my Masters presence concerning his change of humour and countenance, and every one delivering their opinions diversly of the cause of it, the King delivering his Judgment also, said, tis love certainly that robs us thus of the Prince of the Messagetes, and certainly he has left some beauty in *Scythia* that persecutes him here in *Persia*, and so revenges his Country of the injury we doe it, by depriving it of a Prince who was its greatest ornament. *Artabazus* who was near the King, replied; what (Sir) do you believe that among so many beauties as are here, there may not be some one powerfull enough to produce these effects, so destructive to our contentment; for my part I believe it is among the Persians that *Oroontes* hath lost that liberty which

he preserved among the Scythians, since we see tis here that he hath lost both the good humour and good looks which he brought with him from thence. If it be so, cryed out *Darius*, that among our Ladies there be any so cruell as to hold him longer in so pitifull a condition, I doe declare my self her mortall Enemy, and swear by the Sun that I will take as to my selfe her usage of him; *Artaxerxes* seconding his father conjur'd all the Ladyes one after another to preserve him his dear *Orontes*; and the Queen Mother added, that certainly he could not believe any of those Ladyes so ill natur'd as to reject the affections of *Orontes*; nor was it to be hop'd, that either the King or a friend's intercession could doe any good where his owne merit prevailed not. *Oroonates*, whom all these Discourses toucht to the very heart, was often about to reply to such obliging expressions; but fearing he should not have power enough over his passion (speaking upon such a subject) to hinder himselfe from giving some indication of it, either by his words or actions, he went aside, and mingled himselfe in the conversation of the Princesses, *Roxana*, *Bersina*, and *Memnon*, who entertain'd themselves in a window by, and left them not till the King retir'd. But during their conversation, his eyes were so fixt upon the Princess, and express so much distraction in his Discourses, that *Roxana* began to suspect somewhat of the truth. After this, seeing all the Court so much concern'd in his ill humour, and how even his least Actions were observ'd, and judgements made upon them, he labour'd to disguise his griefe, and to take away
the

the best he could all occasions of mens enquiring into the cause of it, being loath to have that discovered by Imprudence, which he indeavoured to conceale with so much care, and so much to the cost of his owne quiet. But alas ! his distemper was growne to too great a height, and his soule too full of passion to be susceptible of any wiles, and the contention served onely to impair his condition, in which he languisht away so insensibly to himselfe, as doubtlesse he had suddainly bin brought to the last extremities, had not the accident which I shall now relate produc'd some change, or rather some variety in his fortune.

The pleasantnesse of an extraordinary cleare and sweet day for the season we were then in, invited the Princesses to walke abroad into the gardens, belonging to the Palace, most of the young gallants accompanied them, and at their lighting from their chariots, *Oroondates* assisted *Siatyra* by the hand, *Hydaspes* *Parisatis*, *Artaxerxes* *Roxana*, *Memnon*, his deare *Bersina*, *Rezases*, *Ariobarhanes*, *Oziness* and some others led *Arfinoe*, *Cleones*, and other beauties, of which the Court of *Persia* was well provided. It were impertinent to trouble you with a description of the beauty of those gardens, you have seene them your selfe in their perfection, before the insolence of some debauch'd women, transported your great King to the destruction of the most sumptuous and goodly city of the World. After that the company had walkt a while, and entertained themselves together, they divided according to the Ladies severall Inclinations, some

ran to the fountaines, others sought out the shady bowers, others sate down upon the grasse, and others diverted themselves in the goodly and spacious walks, *Statyra* finding her self alone with my Prince, sever'd some thirty or forty paces from all other Company, in a walk private enough, resolv'd to make use of that time to discover if she could what it was that troubled him; and when she thought her selfe a sufficient distance from company, having consider'd him a while very fixtly; *Orontes* (said she) after so many proofes as we have received of your civility and goodnesse, I cannot but believe that you have still a perfect complaisance for Ladies, especially for those who esteeme you as I do, I say as I do, who am unfeignedly the fullest of gratitude of all those you have obliged. *Orontes* amaz'd at such an Introduction, was a good while without replying, but at length that he might not appeare too distracted, he made Answer with deep humility; Madam, there is so much glory in obeying and pleasing you, that if I were not tyed to it by duty and inclination both, it carries in it selfe too high a recompence for me ever to faile of that obedience. I could expect no lesse replyed the Princeesse from such a known civility as yours. But if I am not satisfied with this Discourse, and that my concernment in your good opinion of me, makes me desire further proofes of it, will you not goe back from you promise of obedience, and wil you not leave me the shame and discontent of deniall, which perhaps my indiscretion may deserve? My Prince not knowing yet to w^t at this discourse would tend, trembling with love and respect,

respect, made Answer; No, Madam, I shall never recede from the Vow which I have made to obey you entirely and eternally, and if I were sure to finde my death in that honour, I should embrace it as the most glorious fortune that could befall me. That's too much, replyed the Princeesse; I have too just a sense of the obligations you have already given me, to purchase at that rate the greatest new one I could receive; and indeed it is principally the desire of preserving and making that life happy, which gives me the curiosity (perhaps to a degree of indiscretion) to draw from you the knowledge of things perhaps contrary to your humour and resolution to reveale. In fine, *Orontes*, that which I desire of you, and which I desire of you by the memory of what you have promised me, and by the consideration of what you love best in the world, is nothing but a confession of the true cause of your Affliction; I conjure you to it, *Orontes*, as much as is possible for me; protesting to you that it is not out of any inquisitivenesse of my nature that I importune you to it, but out of a true Compassion of your sufferings what ever they are, and out of a desire to procure your satisfaction by all things that may depend of mine or of my Fathers power. If my Prince had bin struck with lightning he could not have bin more stun'd and confounded than with these words; he could not hinder himselfe from, as it were, falling back two or three steps, and losing his colour with such evident Symptomes of a man wholly posselt with distraction and amazement, that the Princeesse considering his Actions with wonder, repented that she had

prest him so farre, but much more, when lifting up his eyes, which he could not keep from overflowing, and fixing them on hers, he sayd unto her with a voice quite changed; O Madam, what a thing doe you ask? and repeating twice the same words, walkt with her at least twenty yards, without adding one more, with trances of a man in mortall Agony, rolling a thousand designs in his head, which at length gave place to this his last resolution; He stood still, and turning to the Princessse, so alter'd, as even to afflict her with the sight of it; Yes Madam (said he) you shall be obeyed, and though I see my death inevitable in what you desire of me, I remember that in the promise I made you, I made that no exception to my obedience. The Princessse as much surprised as he, and perhaps not without some apprehensions of that truth, much troubled to have proceeded so farre, interrupting him said; No, no, *Orontes*, I will have no obedience of such a nature; I thought to aske you somewhat of lesse moment, but since it is of so high a consequence, I doe freely dispencc with your promise. My Prince who after so tormenting a combat with himselfe, was at length come to a Resolution, and who certainly would have bin very sorry to have lost such an opportunity, as in his life perhaps he might never recover again, determin'd to break through all his fears, and with a voice somewhat more assur'd, spake thus unto her; No, no, Madam, It is too late for you to give me a dispensation from that whereunto I am engaged by my promise, and by considerations too powerfull; and that charitable care
which

which you expresse of my life, will be then usefull to me indeed, when you shall know that it depends wholly upon you. The Gods are my Witnesses (continued he) lifting up his hands and eyes to Heaven, that nothing in the World but your Commands could have wrested from me this farall Confession, and that without your expresse Will, I should have carryed secret and undiscover'd to my grave, that Passion which I am sure must bring me thither. Yes certainly Madam, I should much rather have chosen to dye by the observation of that silence, than by offending you with a presumptuous Declaration; but since that over and above the obligation which your Commands have layd upon me to do it, I see my ruine certain every way; I shall think that ruin much more just and noble, when in obedience to your selfe I shall have declared that you are the cause of it. Madam, let not this boldnesse thus occasion'd surprise you, and doe not turn away with horreur, and with resentment, your eyes from this unfortunate creature. It is true (Madam) I have sayd it, I dye, and if I may be allowed to repeat it in the last accents of my life, I dye for you; If one death be too little to satisfie you, accuse the Gods that have given me but one life to answer that crime for which a thousand would be but a slender expiation. The poore Prince would have said more, but that the Princeesse (sharply offended with so free a Declaration, and who knowing her selfe to be the Daughter of the greatest and proudest of Kings, could not have beleaved that any Prince of the World durst have adventured so farre) quitted his
hand

hand, and sate her down upon one of the green banks, looking upon him with eyes of indignation, whilst the poor Prince supporting himselfe against a Tree, expected the mortall sentence. She consider'd long with her self what answer to make, ballancing betwixt Anger and Compassion: She had already great Inclinations to his advantage; and though she took her self to be much injur'd by him, yet she remembered withall what he had done for her and hers, enough to take away the sense of any moderate offence from the minde of a person so highly obliged. This reflexion mollified her a little, yet was not prevalent enough to keep her from speaking thus unto him, with much coldnesse and moderation: *Orontes*, if the obligations which I owe you for the preservation of my Brother, and the liberty of our whole Family, were not as great as the fault you have now committed, I should not want the means to make you understand the presumption unto which the good usages and respect you have found in this Court hath certainly encourag'd you: But since whether I will or no I am beholding to you, and since by my own impertinent curiosity, I bear some part in your fault, I will consent to forget it, upon condition that you never again entertain me with the like follies, and that you quite lay aside the thought of them, upon paine of my everlasting hate. These words were so mortally sensible to my Prince, that they depriv'd him both of voice and senses, and made him sink down at her feet with little shew of life. The Princess mov'd with the spectacle both to compassion and amazement,
and

and perhaps finding in her selfe the first symptomes of a growing affection, gave a great shriek, at which two of her women which were not farre distant ranne in to her, and after them *Bersina* and *Memnon*, and a little after *Artaxerxes*, with all the rest of the Company. Their grieve to finde him in that condition was excessive, but lasted not long; for my Master comming presently to himselfe recover'd them from their apprehensions; but remained himselfe hugely out of countenance to finde himself in that posture, in the middle of such company, and in the armes of *Artaxerxes* bathing his face with tears; but when he had well recover'd his senses and his reason, the feare then succeeded left by that accident he might have discover'd what he so much desir'd to conceale: In fine, having raised and composed himselfe the best he could; asking pardon of the Company, he took his leave of them, and of his Princeesse, with a looke that carried somewhat of fatall in it, and retir'd to his apartment with the Prince *Artaxerxes* (who would never quit him) and with some others, who would needs also accompany him.

Araxes would have pursued his Discourse, and *Lyfimachus* listned unto him so earnestly, as little thinking of dinner time, he would certainly have past the rest of the day in it, had not *Amyntas* and *Polemon* interrupted them upon that errand. So they return'd into the house, and *Lyfimachus* having taken as much sustenance as his cares would permit him, went into *Oroondates* his Chamber, whom he now never lookt upon but with admiration; but finding him at rest, and being loath to trouble him,
he

he withdrew *Araxes* againe into the same place where they had past the morning, expressing to him sufficiently by his Action what it was that he desired. The faithfull Servant well knowing what he would be at, and being never so well pleas'd as in the occasion to talke of his Master, without more entreatie resumed thus his Discourse.

The end of the First Book.

THE



THE
SECOND BOOK
OF
CASSANDRA.

THe Accident which hapned to my Master was so well dissembled, that it past with all the Court onely for a suddain Indisposition of his health, insomuch that there was scarce any that suspected the true cause of it. As soon as he came to his Chamber, the Prince *Artaxerxes* would needs have him go to bed, and repose himselfe the rest of that day, without permitting him to be troubled by any body; whereunto having submitted, as soon as he was a bed, the Prince having straightly embrac'd him, and conjur'd him for his sake as well as his own, to cheere up, he withdrew, and took away with him the rest of the company. As soon as my Master was alone and at liberty, sighes, groanes, and teares brake from him with so much violence, that I thought he would have yeilded

yeelded up the Ghost. I drew nigh to comfort him, or at least to bear such part in his affliction as belonged to me, and as I was wont to doe; but I had no sooner opened my mouth, than he cryed out, O *Araxes*, let me alone, suffer this miserable creature to dye quietly, and follow no more the fortunes of the most unfortunate of men; take what I have left of Money and Jewels, returne to your Parents and to mine, and lose with the sight the memory also of him that would infallibly overwhelm thee in his ruines, shouldest thou longer continue in his company: I have allowed thy attendance and assistance whilst I was allow'd to live; but now that I am forbid that, and that I have receiv'd my cruell sentence of death, forsake for ever this unhappy weight, and goe tell the King of *Scythia* the sad disasters of his Sonne; tell him that I am dead by a supreme Judgement, but by a Judgement pronounced by the divinest mouth of the World; tell him that *Darius* is reveng'd by his Daughter of the destruction of his Forces, and that I pay the price of so many thousand Persians which he hath slaughter'd. He said many things more to me of the like nature, piercing my heart with so much griefe and compassion as made me powre forth by his bedside a deluge of tears; notwithstanding I endeavoured to allege the best reasons I could to recover him from that desperation, but presently he would stop my mouth saying, it is enough, *Araxes*, let us speake no more of it, it is *Statyra's* pleasure that I dye, and I am resolv'd to obey her; seek not to hinder my intention, since you know that I am well acquainted

ted with the waies to it. Yes, excellent Princeſſe, ſaid he, liſting up his eyes, and croſſing his armes upon his breaſt, you ſhall be ſerv'd according to your own humour, and you ſhall need no aſſiſtance to puniſh my preſumption: You forbid me ſpeech, you forbid me alſo even thought, you ſhould then have forbidden me alſo entrance into your Tent, in which I proteſted you and yours from the insolence of the Scythians; that ſlight ſervice for which you confeſſe your ſelfe obliged to me againſt your will, you ſay makes you paſſe by my Crime, when as indeed that which you call my Crime, ought to be a thouſand times more conſiderable to you than that ſervice; in that I perform'd onely the part of a Gentleman and of a Prince, but in forſaking all mine, and in divelliſhing my ſelfe of the ſentiments of nature, to ſeek at your feet inevitable ruine, I have done the part of a Prince that loves, and of a Prince that dyes for you. You are ignorant of theſe obligations, but thoſe that are known to you, are conſiderable enough to make me expect (ſince they are ſo rewarded) no better ſucceſſe from theſe if they were known. In fine, you threaten me with your eternall hatred; O unjuſt crueltie! What have I done to. deſerve it? Examine the nature of my offence, and you will finde me not ſo criminall but that death may ſuffice to exempt me from the reſt of what you threaten. Shall your anger out-laſt my life? And can you hate that ſoul which abandons its body meerly to pleaſe you? No, no, my Princeſſe, you cannot have ſo hard a heart; certainly this expiation will ſatiſſie; and when I ſhall ceaſe

to be, I shall cease to be in your hate. A thousand other discourses he made of this nature, and though I did all I could to make him take some sustenance, he still refus'd it obstinately, and spent all the night in such lamentations as would have toucht the most insensible soul with compassion. In the morning being come to his bedside, I found him in a high Feaver. The Prince *Artaxerxes* who was at his Chamber as soon as it was day, steing him in that condition, was excessively afflicted, and commanding thither the Physitians, he enforc'd him at my request to take somewhat in his presence; wherein without his assistance I should never have prevail'd; he obeyed him for the present, that his dispaire might not be too visible; but as soon as he was gone, he rejected and scorned all the Physitians prescriptions. The King came to visit him that day, and exprest unto him so much griefe at his Indisposition as redoubled his own sense of it, in that he found so many excellent persons partecipe with him. The Queens came thither also, and the Princessse *Parisatis*; but *Statyra* fearing that her presence or countenance might betray somewhat, excus'd her selfe from that visite by a feigned indisposition. My poor sick Prince, who made the extremest judgement of that forbearance, was so stricken with the inhumanity (as he thought it) that his Feaver redoubled upon it with infinite violence: He past that second night as he had done the first; and the next morning as soon as it was day, he call'd for his clothes; but he was so farre from a condition to leave his bed, that I long forbore to obey him, wondring at so extravagant a com;

command. But at length finding that absolutely he would have it so, and that he beganne to be angry with his servants, I was enforc'd to have patience, and to expect the event of his design, whatever it were. As soon as he was ready, he got with much adoe into his Cabinet, commanding me to let no body in but the Prince *Artaxerxes*. The doore was no sooner shut, but the Prince was come into the Chamber, and approacht very softly to his bed-side, strangely wondring when he mist him there; but much more when I had told him the condition hee was in, and the command he had laid upon me. Before I let him into the Cabinet, I most humbly besought him to employ all his power with my Prince to make him change that course of life, wherein he promis'd me to doe his utmost. As soon as he was enter'd and had bid Good morrow, he ranne to him with open armes to embrace him; But my Master thrusting him back as much as his weaknesse would give him leave; No, no, *Artaxerxes* (said he) those kindneses belong no more to me; you must now change your way of life toward me, and lose your error together with a friendship which I have so little deserv'd, and can no longer preserve without abusing how advantageous soever to me: I finde my selfe culpable of too great treachery towards you, and having now nothing to feare, I have nothing to dissemble. *Artaxerxes* amaz'd at this Discourse expected the issue of it with much emotion and won-

der, whilst *Oroondates* with more strength than his Indisposition could well permit, continued in this manner. Be not so soon amaz'd, *Artaxerxes*, reserve your wonder a while; and since you are so desirous to know the cause of my Malady, learne also with it the name, the condition, and the crimes of him you have hitherto honour'd with your friendship; or rather (pursued he, taking a dagger that lay by, and presenting it to him) take this Steele to revenge those crimes, as soon as I shall have told them you, and pierce with it this false heart, which hath answer'd your freedoms with so great dissimulation; let not our friendship divert you, how precious soever the thought of it be to me, it must suddainly end in your side. Do not thinke your selfe oblig'd by what has bin, and may no longer be, to forbear an Act so advantageous to your State, so pleasing to all yours, as the sending out of the world an enemy not inconsiderable, if his hatred were hereditary. In fine (*Artaxerxes*) you are to consider me no more as *Oroontes* Prince of the Messageres, who hath bin so fortunate as to render you some small services, but as *Oroondates* Prince of the Scythians, and heir apparent to him who hath so often dyed the fields with the blood of your Subjects, and who to accomplish his Crime has bin drawn into this Court by the beauty of your Sister the Princess *Statyra*, whose hate hath reduc'd him to the sad condition wherein you now see him. Why stay you after this Declaration? None can blame you for freeing your selfe from a person whom you have so much cause to hate; your father will be pleas'd with you
for

for it, and your sister, who without knowing me hath suck'd with her milke her hatred, will be much obliged to you. *Artaxerxes*, whom so strange and unlookt-for an Accident had rendred as motionlesse as a statue, could scarce believe himselfe awake, but imagining things so incredible rather a dreame than any thing reall, was stricken so as one would have thought him dead, if some passionate teares overflowing had not shewn that he was alive. In the meane while *Oroondates* persisting in his designe, and growing angry to see him so slow in his revenge; Those teares (said he) misbecome your Courage, and such irresolution is a stain to the generosity of *Artaxerxes*; lose not such an occasion of revenging your selfe upon your powerfull Enemy, and of obliging at the same time your faithfullest friend; Death will be much more sweet and honourable to me by your hand than by my owne; since if both should faile, love, griefe, and sicknesse, you see are ready to satisfie me. *Artaxerxes* having bin all this while so fixt as I told you, started up as out of a profound sleepe, and finding that what he saw and heard was reall, having consider'd a while, threw himselfe suddenly upon him, having his heart so oppress'd with the contrary excesses both of griefe and joy, as he was not able a great while to utter one word. Although *Oroondates* lov'd him even beyond himselfe, yet his present condition making him incapable of any contentment, he receiv'd his kindnesses at first with much coldnesse; but afterwards finding with what ardour the Prince continued them notwithstanding a Declaration which would have

justified him in the contrary extremes, he grew
asham'd to finde himselfe so overcome in generosi-
ty; and pressing him in his armes as closely as his
weaknesse would permit him, he made it soone
evident unto him that with the name and condition
of *Orontes* he had not cast off the affection.
They held themselves a good while so straightly
embrac'd, as that they seem'd but one. At length
Artaxerxes astonishment being somewhat dissipat-
ed, and his spirits a little recovered from that en-
trancement, he spake unto my Prince after this
manner, with a more compos'd countenance; Great
Prince! the error in which your disguise hath
made me live, gives me a trouble in some degree
proportionable to the joy I receive in so unexpect-
ed a good fortune, as the honour of seeing you
here; I have bin very failing towards you, inso-
much that were I not well acquainted with your
goodnesse, I could hardly hope for your pardon;
as indeed, if I may use that word, you must not
easily expect mine, for having taken such an opi-
nion of me, as cannot but mortally wound me.
Was it possible for you to believe (O cruel *Oroonda-
tes*) that the change of your condition, or the
hatred of our parents, could have any power to al-
ter my affections? or that *Artaxerxes* could have
so meane a soule as to revenge himselfe in so igno-
ble a way of an enemy to whom he owed his life
and liberty? No, No, generous Prince, posterity
shall never blush for my Crime, nor shall I ever
fixe such a stain upon the royall blood of *Persia*.
It shall never be reproacht me that the knowledge
of *Oroondates* had power to destroy the sense of my
Obliga-

Obligations to *Orontes*; having lov'd you as *Orontes*, I will honour you as *Oroondates*; and if the change of your quality will allow me to continue the same freedom, my whole course of life shall shew you that I love you better than my selfe; nor can I indeed live unlesse lov'd againe by you. Receive great Prince the fresh assurances which I give you of my eternall friendship, and deny me not a confirmation of those which I have formerly received of yours. If *Statyra* (who is too much honour'd in such a love) has not the same sense of it, and of what you have done for her, which I have, I shall disavow her, and declare my self her greatest Enemy; but I hope that the knowledge of your merit and quality, joyn'd to my Intercession, will be of powerfull effect with her against whom I embrace your Interest with so great a passion as shall quickly make appeare how highly I am concern'd in it. All the Recompence I pretend to for it, is a present change in your afflicted manner of life, since mine is made miserable by it; cast off your sorrowes, deare Prince, and henceforward resigne up to my care what I finde so nearely concerns you.

It is impossible for me to expresse unto you the wonder and joy of *Oroondates*, who finding himselfe thus raised on the suddaine from desperation to such a degree of hope, was in an instant become another man; and those testimonies of friendship which were alwaies so deare to him, and now so much more advantagious than ever, produc'd most suddain and wonderfull effects as well in health of body as tranquillity of minde; at the very instant

he forgot his weaknesse so, as that to answer *Artaxerxes* kindnesse and freedome, he would not in a long time have desisted from his new Protestations and Endearments of service and friendship, if the Prince more carefull of his health than he, had not broken them off to force him againe to his bed, refusing to hear him till he saw him there; where he no sooner was, but *Artaxerxes* sat down upon the bed side, and having commanded all out of the Chamber but my selfe, he desired me to relate unto him my Masters adventures, of which till that day he was ignorant. But my Prince (however in regard of his health importun'd to the contrary by *Artaxerxes*) would needs performe that taske himselfe (thinking no body else capable of expressing lively enough the least part of his passion) which he presently did, beginning at the very originall of his love, and concealing nothing from him even to those last words of the Princeesse, which had caused his fainting, whereof the Prince had bin farre from guessing the occasion; he expressed the whole unto him with such transportments of passion as were likely to have relaps'd him into his former condition, had not the Prince interrupted him with these words of consolation. Although your mistrust and obstinacy in concealing your selfe from the perfectest friend that ever was, is very sensible to me, I will not keepe in memory that injury, since you have the goodnesse to forget so many of more Importance; and I assure you, without considering at all the offence I may give by it to him that gave me my being, I will so employ my selfe in your service, as that you shall not
finde

finde my cares unusefull. *Statyra* loves me much; and you are extreme lovely; These two points make me confident of good fortune, if indeed yours do depend on her; since intreating her as your friend, and counselling her as her Brother, she cannot but hearken to me; nor can I doubt but she hath Inclinations favourable enough to you already; since besides her Obligations, I dare sweare there are few Ladyes in the Court that look upon you with indifference, you ought not to disbelieve this for any thing she hath said to you; her words expres'd no averlion; Nor could it be expected but that so strange an encounter, and a discourse so unlookt-for, from a person whom she thought her inferiour, should extremely surprise her; you know the waies of those of her sexe, and paticularly of her Condition; Reflect well upon them, and then instead of a despaire unworthy your courage, you will finde cause to resume your health and good humour, and to expect from your owne merit and my assistance all manner of satisfaction: And doe you (dearest Prince) replied *Oroondates*, expect from me all that can be challeng'd from one rais'd by you from the grave, and who will not embrace with more passion those joyes to which you erect his hopes, than the occasions to sacrifice himselfe for your service.

After these and some other discourses, *Artaxerxes* tooke his leave of him, that he might goe labour in the worke, and my Master take some rest, to which he was now well enough dispos'd, having obtain'd it in some measure already in his thoughts; the precious hopes which the Prince had

given him, having already chas'd away thole despaires which had made him so obstinately desire to dye; And although the distempers of that day had bin so great, yet his feaver was not increased by them; and two houres after the Prince was gone from him, the Physitians found his Pulse more orderly, and greater signes of recovery than ever, both in his face and voice.

In the meane while *Artaxerxes* thanking the Gods for so great a blessing, in giving him the meanes in some measure to answeare the Obligations which he had to my Master, resolved to embrace the occasion with such care and industry as never to be accus'd of ingratitude; and deferring it no longer than till he was gone from my Master's Chamber, he went directly thence (as I have since bin told it by my Prince) to the apartment of the Princessse *Statyra*; he found her without other Company than of her women, but to avoid overhearers in a matter of that secrecy, he desir'd her to retire with him into her Cabinet; As soon as they were there, and the doore shut upon them, the Prince making her sit downe by him, after he had lookt upon her steadily a while without saying any thing, he tooke her by the hand, and pressing it between his, Sister (said he in a tone of voice lesse assur'd than usuall) Is it not true that you love me well? Brother, replyed the Princessse, what meane you to aske me now assurance of that which I am sure you cannot doubt? But Sister, resum'd he, I meane that your friendship is not of an ordinary degree, and that you will not refuse me testimonies of it in the highest nature, when I shall
desire

desire them of you. Certainly Brother, replied the
 Princess, they must be very impossible ones that
 I shall refuse you; since it is not a greater truth that
 I am *Statira*, than that I love Prince *Artaxerxes* a-
 bove all things in this world. I aske not so much
 as that, replied he, and I will not envy another
 what he has better deserved than I; wonder not,
 deare Sister, continued he, if at this time I aske you
 questions, that your way of life may well make
 you think very strange. I have indeed a firme
 believe that you love me, and upon that confidence
 I have now laid the foundations of my life; But
 Sister, remember wel these confirmations which
 you give me; and remember that if you can finde in
 your heart to retract or repent them when I shall
 demand proofes of them, you must no more consider
Artaxerxes as your brother, but as the man of the
 world whom you have most mortally injured, and
 whom you will infallibly bring to his grave. Hi-
 therto the Princess was not much mov'd with his
 Discourse, but observing with what passion he
 spake this, she answered him more sadly than be-
 fore. The Prince of *Persia* hath so much affection
 for his Sister, that he will never desire of her any
 thing unworthy either of her or him, and he may
 be sure that she will never refuse him her life, if he
 shall require that for a prooffe of her kindnesse;
 I shall not onely, replied the Prince, give mine at
 all times freely for the preservation of yours, but
 rather than consent to your least disadvantage; you
 have reason to believe this (dear Sister) and I will
 believe, that desiring nothing but what will be-
 come you, and which may be easie for you, you
 will

will be easily perswaded to doe your utmost, when the life of your Brother is concern'd. In a word, dear Sister, to hold you no longer in suspence, It is my own life I beg of you, in the life of my deare *Orontes*; they both depend absolutely upon you; and you must make no other judgement of my condition than by that which you have reduc'd him to; if he dye, it is impossible for me to live; if thou preserve his life, I shall owe you mine; and 'tis I who suffer by you the penalty of that presumption which you lay to his charge. Wonder not, Sister, it is at the last extremes of his life, that he hath discover'd to me what pass between you; and it is at those last extremes that he hath made himself known, but known to me for such a one, as may without disparagement to the Crowne of *Persia*, challenge from you whatever you might refuse to *Orontes*; object not then against his quality, since it is no way inferiour to your own, & that to our cost we have found it too powerful to be neglected. I will hold you no longer in suspence, since besides what you owe to him, & your friendship to me, you are of a discretion fit to be trusted with a secret of the highest importance; Know then, that it is no more to *Orontes* Prince of the *Messagetes* to whom you are so infinitely beholding, but to the gallant *Oroondates* Sonne to the great Emperour of the *Scythians*, and Heire apparent to the most powerfull Empire of *Europe*. Be not startled, Sister, but take what I tell you, for a thing as certaine as it seems incredible. It is no longer a fugitive Prince, who flying from the anger of his King, seekes his protection in this Court, but it is a Prince

Prince who enflam'd with love for you since his first sight of you in the Tent (a sight so fatall to him, so advantageous to all our house) hath abandon'd his affections to his Father, and the place where Heaven had given him Sovereignty, hath past through so many Enemies Countries, and expos'd himselfe to such eminent hazards to cast himselfe at your feet, and to dedicate unto you a life which he is resolv'd never to preserve but by your will, and for your service. He would have continued, when the Princessse having listned to him with great attention, but with more astonishment, had no longer patience to let him goe on, but cryed out, O God (Brother !) What doe you meane? Doe you abuse me? Or must I give credit to what you say? Your are to beleeve it, Sister, replied he, since I speak to you with so much seriousnessse, and that I conjure you to receive him as his birth, his love, his merit, and the services he has done you oblige you. What Brother, replied *Statyra*, will you have me love the sworn and irreconcilable Enemy of our Family? Certainly if you consider to a what a degree this desire of yours must offend him to whom we owe our being, you cannot think much that I should disobey you. Deceive not your selfe, replied *Artaxerxes*, I shall think it more cruell than death it self, having vowed such friendship to the Prince of *Scythia*, that our fortunes are for ever inseparable; and I beseech you, if you are not minded to save him, that you will hold me no longer in uncertainty, but withall to beleeve that you shall never more see *Artaxerxes*, but to assist at his Funerall, Is it possible, replied the

the Princeſſe, that you can be ſo paſſionate in the behalf of one who hath ſpilt ſo much of your countries blood, and with whom you cannot hope for a Peace whiſt either your Father or his ſhall live ? But is it poſſible, cruell woman, replied the Prince, that you can retaine a remembrance of that after ſo many obligations as ought to have baniſht it from your thoughts ? Is your concernment in that greater than mine ? And can you conſider *Oroon-dates* as the perſon whoſe Valour hath made it ſelfe famous in the ruine of our Friends, whiſt he knew us not, and whiſt his own Duty obliged him to it, without conſidering him at the ſame time, as the perſon who hath ſav'd the Honour, the Liberty, and the Life of you and all yours, and who to ſee and ſerve you hath not ſtuck to abandon his own party, his Kingdome, his Father, and his head, which he has deliver'd up into the hands of his mortall Enemies ? Shall a pretended Injury have power to make you forget ſuch reall obligations ? and can it ſo preoccupate your underſtanding as not to let you know what you owe to the paines and hazards which he has undergone for you ? It is impoſſible (Siſter) that you can ever ſufficiently acquit your ſelfe of ſo great a Debt, and when you ſhall have done in his favour much more than I require, you will not have answered a proportionable part of your own obligations, ſever'd both from his own intereſts and mine : But, Siſter, let us truly conſider yours, ſince I have profeſt never to deſire any thing of you that ſhould be diſadvantageous to your ſelf ; Can you with a greater Prince, or a Servant more ſuitable to your quality ?

Will

Will you have a person more accomplisht? Or rather, is it possible that such Excellencies as make him so, and that face able to charme the most savage mindes, can have left you insensible towards him? No, no, dear Sister; If you have been so hitherto, it is now time for you to yeeld; you have too long resisted his merits, your own obligations, and the entreaties of a Brother who loves you more than himselfe. To these he added many more conjurements, able to have mollified a heart more hardned than the Princesses; in whose having met with predisposed Inclinations, it was impossible but she must submit unto considerations so powerfull. She continued notwithstanding a great while in these reflections, without making any answer to her Brother, who in the mean while, sometimes embracing her with great tenderesse, and sometimes casting himselfe at her feet, omitted neither words of passion, nor tears to move her. At length looking up, and recalling her selfe, as it were from a deep thoughtfulness, she cast a more gentle eye upon him, and throwing her armes about his neck, Well, my deare Brother, sayd she, what must I doe to please you? The Prince ravisht with joy, after he had streightly embrac'd her; My dear Sister, said he, you must cure the poore *Oroondates*, by a usage contrary to that which hath brought him into the sad condition in which he now is, and by recalling those cruell words which brought him thither. Will that content you, replied the Princess? No, Sister, replied *Ataxerxes*; when you have recover'd him, you must then acknowledge his services, by allowing him hopes of that friendship
from

from you which he hath so well deserved. Well, replied the Princeſſe, I ſubmit to whatſoever you command, ſince you force me to it; for it is impoſſible for me to reſiſt where you intereſt your ſelfe with ſo much paſſion; I ſhall ſuffer his love for your ſake. That's not enough, interrupted *Artaxerxes*, his love requires much more, and deſerves that you ſhould doe it for his own ſake: Adde but that word (deare Siſter) and you make me the happieſt man alive. You are very troubleſome, replied the Princeſſe, but ſince I am gone ſo farre, I will deny you nothing, but leave to you the whole care and conduct of an affection in which you are reſolv'd to engage me, and wherein I foreſee infinite difficulties; your prudence will, I make no queſtion, overcome them as farre as may be; however be pleaſed to remember, what ever happen, that I can have no great ſhare in a fault which you enforce me to commit.

The Prince tranſported with joy, after a thouſand thanks and endearments endeavoured to remove from her all her apprehenſions, and relating to her the particulars of my Maſter's life, he left her not till he had made a clear diſcovery of great Inclinations in her towards him, and a great deſire in her to haſten his recovery; in which that no time might be loſt, the Prince oblig'd the Queen his Mother to viſit him that evening, accompanied by the Princeſſes her Daughters, and by himſelfe the contriver of that opportunity. The Princeſſe *Statyra* enter'd the Chamber trembling with the conſideration of what ſhe went about, and finding a naturall repugnance to doe any thing of that nature,

nature, which her Brother then exacted from her, she approacht my Master's Bed with so much Confusion and Trepidation, as any body concern'd might easily have made discoveries in her face, notwithstanding having already strong propensions towards him, and seeing him reduc'd to so sad a condition, meerly by his love to her, pitty at length introduc'd affection, and made her resolve to break through all difficulties to satisfie her Brother, to comply with her Obligations to my Master, and to follow the Dictaments of an Inclination that already began to be powerfull. After the Queen had askt him of his health, and entertain'd him a while, the Prince her Sonne pretending somewhat to say to her, took her by one hand, and the Princess *Parisatis* by the other, and led them aside to a Window, where he amazed them with a Discourse which he had reserv'd for that Designe.

Here it was that the Princess *Statyra* found her selfe in so great disorder, that she had much adoe to recover her selfe, and to be constant to her last resolutions. My Prince trembling with love and feare, durst hardly lift up his eyes unto her; and asham'd to be found yet alive, seem'd to begge her pardon for that fault by his silence, and by an overflowing of tears, which made an end to vanquish her, and had almost forc'd from her such marks of her compassion as would certainly have discovered the cause of it, but she resisted those irregular motions of pitty couragiously, and drawing neare my Master, she said unto him in so low a voice as none could over-hear; And will *Orontes* dye

dye then? Yes, Madam, said he, he will do what he ought; and if that Testimony of his care to please you hath been too long deferr'd, Madam, accuse not him, since he hath done all he could to hasten your satisfaction. Why then let *Orontes* dye, replyed the Princeesse, so that *Oroondates* live. *Oroondates* in a rapture of joy, surprisall, and astonishment, was a great while so entranc'd, as he had not a word to reply, yet perceiving that the Queen was ready to return to him, he sigh'd out these few words to the Princeesse, *Oroondates* would live, Madam, if she for whom he ought and is resolv'd to dye, had consented to it. The Princeesse replyed to him in hast; She doth not onely consent, but intreats and commands him by all the power she hath over him. The Queen and Princeesse *Parisatis* comming to them hinder'd them from saying any more; but the Prince *Artaxerxes* easily perceiv'd in my Master's countenance that that little time had been happily employed. He could not dissemble the joy he received by it; and as soon as the Queen and Princeesses were gone, he received from my Master the account of what had past, with so great demonstrations of Contentment as did evidence more than ever the perfect friendship which he had for him. It is impossible for me to expresse unto you the least part of my Master's transports, what he did, and what he said to the Prince of *Persia*, how often he call'd him his protecting Deity and his Tutelary Angel; and how often he renew'd unto him the protestations of eternall faithfulnessse. It sufficeth to tell you that the next day he found himselfe freed from his Fever, and
this

this change of his condition wrought so suddain a change in his health, that within two dayes he left his bed, and within two dayes more his Chamber.

The newes of his recovery was received with much joy by all those who had appeared so much concern'd in his sicknesse; who were indeed so many, as I may safely call it a publique and universall rejoycing; My Princes vertue having in that little time acquired him as many friends as there were persons capable to judge of that. He had no sooner quitted his Chamber, but he repay'd his visits with great civility; and after he had attended the King and Queenes; he went to the apertment of the Princesses; where he found them together, and their Cozen *Roxana* with them; He accosted them with that apprehension which alwaies accompanied him of late, when ever he saw *Statira*. *Artaxerxes* who failed not to be there as soon as he, to oblige him, amus'd *Parisatis* and *Roxana* with some Discourses apart, giving him thereby such liberty to entertaine the Princess, as he could have desired, who resolv'd not to lose the opportunity; having fixt his eyes upon her a good while without speaking, at length with much emotion, said unto her; Madame, I hope that in allowing me to live, you have allowed me also to speak; however, though silence were enjoyn'd me in all other things, yet at least ought I to have the liberty given me of rendering thanks for my life to her who hath preserved it. The Princess replyed, All our Family Sir have Obligations to you of that nature; and I should have bin very ungratefull, had I not contributed all that in me lay, to the preservation of a person
H whose

whose debtors we all are, to so high a degree. Those slight services, replied the Prince, which I have bin able to doe you, carry their own recompence with them; and those which I shall be able to doe you through the whole course of my life are too gloriously rewarded already, if that charity which you have bin pleased to expresse to a dying person, be not extinguish't towards him, now that by your permission he lives. I have done too good a worke (replied the Princeesse smiling) in contributing to your recovery, ever to repent me of it; since over and above my owne knowledge of your person, of your merit, and of our Obligations, my Brothers satisfaction is so dear to me that I shall willingly sacrifice to that all Concernments of my owne. My Prince made answer with a deepe sigh; Since the Gods have not favoured me so much to make me worthy of my selfe to serve you, I receive thankfully from them my good fortune as they are pleased to allow it me; and if by the most religious zeale, and by the most respectfull passion that ever was, I cannot deserve the honour to be owned for yours, I shall think my selfe very happy, if for that deare Brothers sake you shall be pleased to cast from you the hatred of our houses, and that you permit me to live with you as a person not altogether indifferent, to one so deare to you as he. The Princeesse who had already much love for him, and who desir'd to doe him as great favours as she conceived she might allow her selfe, made him this obliging Answer, not without some reluctancy with the naturall reservednesse of her humour: I doe not forbid you to make a judgement

ment more to your advantage; and it shall not at all displease me that you think your selfe considerable enough to me for your own sake; it is true, that at my Brother's sollicitation I have bin led to this Action which you call charitable; but I shall not make nice to confesse to you, that had I believed I either could or ought to have done it, I should have done that of my owne Inclination, which I have done by his perswasion. *Oroondates* was so transported with this obliging Discourse, that he was ready to have thrown himselfe at her feet, and to have discovered by his Action the nature of their Conversation; but that coming suddainly to himselfe, he preserved his Iudgement entire enough to consider where and in what Company he was; so that constraining himselfe all that was possible, he said unto her with a countenance which sufficiently expresse'd his excessse of joy; Madam! since that happy minute that made me first yours, I ever understood that something altogether divine obliged me to so extraordinary a veneration; and I finde clear evidences of that Divinity in the absolute power you have over the lives of men: you took away mine by a few words which my presumption justly forc'd from you; you restor'd it me againe by words which your compassion obtained for me, and you continue it now by a favour so transcendent and unmerited, that I hardly know my selfe, thus suddainly raised as I am from the greatest gulf of unhappinesse to a height of glory enviable even by the Gods themselves. He would have said more in that his rapture, if the Princeesse had not thus interrupted him: I am

not ignorant *Oroondates*, that considering what I am, I do more than I ought; but when I consider likewise what you are, what you have done for all our Family, and particularly for me, I should condemn my selfe of great ingratitude, should I not both owne and acknowledge an affection of which you have given me proofes so great and so dangerous; I was offended, 't is true, that *Orontes* should presume to make an addresse of love to me; but since my Brother approves that *Oroondates* should, and since I allow it, and since a Prince of quality so correspondent to mine exposes himselfe to such manifest hazards to serve me, I should thinke my selfe failing both to friendship and duty it selfe, should I not remit towards him much of that severity which would otherwise become me. Pray take care not to abuse my indulgence, and live in that manner both for your own sake and mine, as none may suspect an intelligence betwixt the Prince of *Scythia*, and the Princessse of *Persia*. I confesse I cannot reflect upon this without trembling; and when I thinke of those obstacles which have had no power to deterre you, I am seized with such wonder and confusion at your designe, that I can onely resigne up the whole conduct of it to the Gods, to your prudence, and to my deare Brothers assistance. *Oroondates* receiving from his Princessse such markes of affection beyond his expectation, made answer; The goodness of the Gods and of the Prince *Artaxerxes* who have thus favour'd the birth of a most perfect affection, will certainly be as propitious to the growth and progresse of it; and doubtlesse that hereditary hatred,

ered, which threatens me with the greatest difficulties, will in time be overcome by juster considerations; as for my owne part (*Madame*) since you are pleased to fortify my discretion by your Commands, I shall be sure to live so, as that a good fortune so little deserv'd, shall be as little suspected; and though the Prince of *Scythia* should be discover'd in the Court of *Persia*, the Princess *Statyra* shall still remaine as uncapable of the least imputation for his sake, as her Sister the Princess *Parisatis*. They were hindred from continuing their discourse by the Princess *Roxana*, who beginning to be concern'd, maliciously interrupted them; and *Artaxerxes* and *Parisatis* joyning themselves to their Conversation, they so past the rest of that day together. From that time the Prince *Otoondates* bestow'd his time so well with the Princess, that he made a swift progresse in her favour, and knew how to sollicite her with so much discretion, that at length he received both from her words and actions cleare assurances of a most reall and powerfull affection; that knowledge soon restor'd unto him his wonted beauty and humour, and rendred him such in the eyes of all the Court, as attracted to him afresh all their hearts and admiration. The Prince *Artaxerxes* being resolv'd to oblige him entirely, studied nothing more than the occasions of doing him all sorts of good offices: But in a short time his assistance grew little needfull with the princess his Sister, she observing every day more and more such admirable qualities in that Prince, who she saw liv'd onely for her, as that insensibly she let her selfe

goe to so strong a passion, as that my Master's was little superiour; yet she liv'd alwaies with so great discretion & reservednesse, as that the severest of the Age, nay *Diogenes* himself (of whom your King made such Accompt) could not have found the least matter of censure, though all her Actions had bin publisht; My Prince also on his part never licenc'd himselfe so farre, as to presse from her the least favours that might have any shew of levity on her part, or irreverence on his; and esteem'd himselfe more happy in one obliging word or look than in the possession of Empires; nor can I forbear to tell you (although I believe you know as much of it as my selfe) that as certainly there never was a body enricht with so excellent a beauty, as that Princeesse; so am I most confident that never was there a beauty accompanied with a more rare and more exalted vertue; her wit was admirably quicke, her judgement as solid, and her humour so equall and full of sweetnesse, that all the world found irresistable charmes in them; her courage (as you know) hath sustained the rudest assaults of fortune with great tranquillity; her discretion and modesty were incomparable; and her reservednesse so great and so noble, that although she were possess'd with a most violent passion, she ever preserv'd the Mastery of it to such a degree, that it never had power to transport her in the least kinde beyond the severest Maximes of discretion; although the occasions and accidents thorough which she hath pass'd in the course of her friendship have bin so extraordinary as might well have dispens'd her from some of those Rules. O-

roondates considering this modell of perfection, was transported beyond himselfe, when ever he made reflexion on his happinesse, and though he were infinitely ravisht with her outward beauty, yet that of her minde had got so absolute a Dominion over him, as being not able to love a lesse vertue, nor to value an easier Conquest, he found the greatest charmes of sweetnesse and delight even in his loves greatest difficulties. His accessse to her was easie, the King and Queens conceiving that they could not do lesse for him, who had preserved their Daughters, than to allow him their free frequentation; nor did he in any wise abuse it; but to avoid all occasions of suspition he did as often entertain the *Princessse Parisatis* as her Sister; and in all appearance made no other application to her than to *Roxana*, to *Bersina*, and to other Princesses with whom he was every day, and by whom he was lookt upon with an eye of much favour. *Artaxerxes* was delighted to see himselfe succeed so happily in his design of putting himself beyond all suspition of ingratitude, and ordered matters so well in making my Master still passe for *Orontes*, that he was never suspected by any. This happy change in his fortune having such an effect as I have told you, even to a degree of exceeding himselfe, inflam'd the affections of all the Court towards him, and principally of the Ladyes, who seeing him succeed in every thing he undertook with so wonderfull a grace, had much adoe to dissemble those Inclinations which the frequentation of so extraordinary a person excited in them; and if his passion for the *Princessse* had permitted him

to make use of his good fortune, he would have had great occasion to be satisfied with affections and favours of most of the prime Beauties of *Persia*. I make no doubt but you have been acquainted with many of them, who were not exempt from such passions; but because the Discourse of more would be too long, and of little importance to my Master's story, I shall onely tell you so much of them as I cannot passe in silence without concealing from you the most remarkable accidents of his life. It was at the Marriage of *Memnon* and *Bersina* that my Prince found a powerfull effect of his merit which hath since cost him deare; the brave *Memnon* having made himselfe recommendable by a thousand gallant actions unto the faire *Bersina*, obtain'd her at length, after a long application, by the consent of her Father, of the King, and all the Court, who seemed much to interest themselves in that alliance. The eminence of the persons procur'd it a celebration of great solemnity with all the Persians in general, and their quality and merit obliged the King, the Queens, & all the Royall Family to honour those Nuptials with their presence at the house of *Artabazus*. My Master, who for his eminent vertue had contracted a great friendship with *Memnon*, was of all the parties that were made to honour his Marriage, and appear'd in them all so dexterous, and so magnificent, that he divided the honour of those Triumphs betwixt the Prince of *Persia* and himselfe, who in them gave many eminent testimonies of his gentleness and bravery. After the solemnities of the day, the Ball at night was very glorious; the Queens, the Princesses,
and

and all the rest of the Ladies of *Persia*, most eminent either in beauty or quality were present at it, with extraordinary lustre, having heightned their naturall beautie by such Ornaments, and such radiancy of Jewels, as really my eyes could scarce endure the glory. My Master was seated next the Princeesse *Roxana*, very beautifull indeed, and richly attir'd; you know the rank she held in that Court, as Daughter to *Cobortan*, Cousen German to *Darius*, and Satrape of the Saques; I shall say nothing to you neither of her Face nor Wit, since you are so much better acquainted with both than I, and since we have so much reason to detest her, as that I can hardly preserve a remembrance of her any wise to her advantage. After that *Oroondates* had entertain'd her a while, with generall Commendations of the Ladies of *Persia*, with whose beauties he profess'd himselfe dazl'd, *Roxana* having fixtly consider'd him, and expressing by her change of countenance the agitations of her minde. But is it possible (said she, in a voice too low to be over-heard) that you can among so many Beauties have still retained the coldnesse of your Country? And that the sight of those wonders which you acknowledge, hath not made you lose that indifferrence which hath hitherto disoblig'd them al. They have too just a value of themselves, replyed the Prince, for such an unfortunate creature as I am to hope that they will have any sense of my passions, which I cannot be so stupid as to be without, towards the rarest pieces of the World; But (Madam) I want not respect with that passion, and I can suppress out of judgement what I cannot

not declare without temerity ; besides that really I use all my skill to defend my selfe from a mischief whose remedy I cannot hope for without excesse of presumption. You are an errant Dissembler, replied the Princeesse ; you know both your selfe and us too well to have any thoughts of either, but such as are quite contrary to your discourse. The Ladies here know as well as others what value to set upon such persons as you are, and if I did not apprehend the giving you too much vanitie, I should assure you that there are few or none, but would receive your affection as a great fortune. In pronouncing these words she blusht so extremely, that my Master bore a part with her in her disorder, replying to her thus, with much submission; Madam, you may entertaine your selfe as you please at the cost of the miserable, but not wichdraw me by a raillery of this nature, from that just opinion which I have of my selfe. If you have such a one as you ought to have, replied the Princeesse, you will finde no cause to dispaire of what ever you shall desire. I beleeve she would have proceeded to a full discovery of her selfe, if the Prince *Artaxerxes*, destin'd to doe my Master good offices, had not just at that time taken her out to dance, and after his reconducting her to her place, entertain'd her all the rest of that night. *Oroondates* being retir'd to his lodging, and reflecting upon the words of *Roxana*, and upon divers preceding actions of hers, for which having no concernment, he had before as little observation, began to understand that she lov'd him, and foreseeing by some secret instinct the Misfortunes

times which that affection hath since caused him, he observed the originals of it with high discontent; notwithstanding he resolved in case she persisted in that humour, to use her with all possible civility, both as what he conceiv'd was due to her person and condition, and that he might not exasperate against him one whom he knew to be of so great a spirit, of so much wit, and of so busie and active a humour; as also that he might give her no possibilitie of suspecting his love with the Princeesse of *Persia*. After that night he receiv'd from her many other testimonies, who thinking that she had already broken through the greatest difficulties, omitted no occasion of expressing unto him, both by her looks and discourses, her growing passion. *Oroondates* dexterously dissembled the matter, and making as if he did not perceive it, liv'd with her as he thought her quality required, and her civilities oblig'd him to. But *Roxana* not at all satisfied with those ordinary respects, and being well enough conceited of her selfe to beleeve that he declin'd the taking notice of her affection, out of apprehensions that he might not be worthy of it, resolv'd to cure him of that error, and after some contestations with her self, she brake at length through the Lawes and Scruples of Decency, and one day dropt into his sleeve a Ticket, which he found when he retir'd into his Chamber; at first he fell not on the thought of what it was, but having opened it, he found in it these words, which he read before me, and which sufficiently discovered unto him the person who had writ them.

Ticket

**Ticket of ROXANA'S to
ORONTES.**

IS it possible, Orontes, that my past actions have not yet discover'd unto you my thoughts, but that I must be forc'd against the Lawes of Discretion and Decency, thus to declare that I love you? It is true, Orontes, you have forc'd me to it, but I beseech you abuse not your fortune, and doe not undervalue her, who hath too much undervalued her selfe, in doing that to you, which she ought to have expected from you.

My Master, who was wont to doe me the honour to trust me with his greatest secrets, conceal'd not from me this affection of Roxana's, and was pleas'd to allow me the liberty of giving him my opinion upon it; he resolv'd to take no notice of that Ticket, and if the Princeesse should speak to him of it, to feigne that it was lost, as very probably it might have been; in the meane while he beganne by little and little to withdraw his visits, and to avoyd the occasions of being alone with her, seeking as much as he could without discovering a particular designe, to entertain his Princeesse, to whom notwithstanding out of discretion and nicety of honour he never discovered any thing of her Consens passion, concealing that for her, which she conceived she ought to have kept secret for her selfe. In the meane while he received from his Princeesse such testimonies of her affection,

fection, as he would not desire more; and it was then indeed, both by *Statyra's* inclination; and the assistance of *Artaxerxes*, that he found himself the happiest man alive, had not Fortune, who sports her selfe in our various destinies, raised him up to that happinesse, to precipitate him with the greater violence into that gulse of Misfortune wherein he hath since past the rest of his life.

O Gods! pursued *Araxes*, having his face all bathed in teares, May I not without blasphemy accuse you of cruelty, to have consented to the greatest losse that *Asia* could ever sustain; and that for the glory of one man, you have suffered the destruction of the greatest Family and Empire of the World. It is well, continued he, that *Oroondates* is away at this dismall part of my relation, otherwise you would have seen him transported into the greatest Agonies of griefe that any soul is capable of, and certainly with so much reason as he cannot be blamed for the dislemper, since I can hardly have the heart to relate such disasters as will infallibly force from you, as the memory of them does already from me, a torrent of teares; yet I will doe my utmost to satisfie you, and since I have had the power to undergoe them, possibly I may gaine so much over my self, as to be able to relate them.

Although the cruell Warres of *Persia* and *Scythia* appeared almost extinguisht by the blood of so many thousands, it was onely raked up a while in their ashes, and those two Kings whose hatred was irreconcilable, cherishing still in their mindes the insatiable passion of one anothers ruine, did
care-

carefully watch all opportunities that might conduce to it. The King of *Scythia*, who the yeare before had been assailed by the Persian, resolv'd to prevent him the next, and to make his Country the seat of the Warre, in which designe he drew into the Field an Army of 200000 men, and passing the *Arrexes*, entred *Persia*, exercising all sorts of hostility. The siege of *Silene*, a Frontier Town of that Kingdome, having given the first stop to his Army, the intelligence came soon to *Persopolis*; *Darius* who had his Army in readinesse to have invaded *Scythia*, if he had not been prevented, was not much surpris'd with the newes; and having given unto his Satraps all necessary orders, he prepared to have gone in person to repulse him, but that intention of his was diverted by the news which he received at the same time of *Alexanders* advance. *Alexander* had already made himselfe famous by his Victory over the *Tribalians*, and by taking of *Thebes*; and although *Darius*, the mightiest of Kings, slighted that young Conquerour, and threatned him like a child with a rod, yet his Counsellours made another judgement of the matter, and advised him rather to oppose himselfe in person against him, than against the *Scythians*, and that he should lend onely one of his Generals on that expedition; their opinion prevailed over his first Resolution, and it was resolv'd at the Councell, to which my Master was called, that an Army of 200000 men should be sent against the *Scythians*, under the conduct of *Artabases*, and that for his greater credit and authority, the young Prince *Artaxerxes* should accompany

company him, who in regard of his youth declined the Command in chiefe, remitting it to the wisdom and experience of that ancient and renowned Commander; this was the result of the Councell. Judge now of my Master's affliction, being forced to one of these three extremes, either to fight against his own Father and Country, or in returning to them to ruine all his hopes, wherein he found himselfe so farre advanc'd, or to remaine with shame among the Ladyes, whilst his dear *Artaxerxes* was expoed to greatest dangers, and to the fury of his Scythians. These considerations held him a while in great suspence, but at length Filiall duty and the Interest of his Country gave way to Love and Friendship, and made him resolve never to abandon the Friend to whom he owed all his quiet and happinesse; and understanding that *Artaxerxes* was alone in his Cabinet, he went to him, accompanied by none but me, he found him as much afflicted as himselfe in the despaire of that peace which he had so ardently desired, and being as yet ignorant of my Master's designe, he did scarce know either what to doe himselfe, or what to expect from him, yet still resolved never to become his Enemy, but rather to disoblige him to whom he owed his being, than the person to whom he had vowed so perfect and eternall a friendship; the trouble of minde they were both in, made them walk some turnes without saying any thing to one another; at length *Oroondates* thus brake silence; You cannot doubt, dear Brother (for of late they call'd one another by no other name) but that in this strange and perplexed state of affaires
(which

(which I beleeve Fortune doth thus manage to do me a spight) my condition is extremely sad and distracted, since it would argue a great want of humanity in me, if blood and nature should not cause great commotions within me upon this occasion, and if seeing the great afflictions which now the Gods send me, after they had rais'd me by your meanes to so high a degree of happinesse, I should have constancy, or rather insensibility enough, not to be moved at such a change; no, I must confesse to you, my Courage is not sufficient to receive such a blow as this with an equall temper, and without yeelding in some degree to the sense of my present misfortune, and those greater which I foresee, considering what Enemies Fortune presents me to combat ; and that I must necessarily commit one great crime to avoid another ; Yet (dear Brother) beleeve not that this accident, though it cause a trouble, can cause a change in me, but that although I am *Oroondates* Sonne to *Matheus* the King of *Scythia*, yet I am still *Orontes*, faithfull slave to *Statyra*, and most faithfull friend to *Artaxerxes*; I shall not stick to incurre the reputation of a disnatur'd Sonne, to preserve that of a perfect Lover, and faultlesse Friend, nor shall I have any scruples of Conscience to fight against a Fathers power, that would overthrow the happinesse which my Friend hath procured me ; all that I desire of you is , and which I begge of you with a passion that cannot beare a denyall, is, that the new occasion which you have to hate the Father, may have no operation upon your kindnesse to the Sonne, who can-

not

not be blamed for his designs; from which he is not onely innocent, but which he detests; and is fully disposed to ruine. *Artaxerxes* having attentively heard him, replyed, Brother, I have already such proofes of your friendship, as put me beyond all doubt that any accident can shake it: I desire the Gods may never blesse me, if it be not infinitely more dear to me than all things else in this world, and if I desire to live, but to be *Oroondates* Friend, and to merit his affection by the highest Testimonies of mine. I must confesse to you, it hath given me much griefe to heare of your Father's invading the Territories of mine, both as apprehending it might be a meanes to take you from us, and also in regard I cannot hinder my selfe from honouring him who hath given the World so lovely a Prince, and so perfectly beloved by *Artaxerxes*; but if you can have entertained a thought that the consideration of him can have the least ill effect upon my kindnesse to my dear *Oroondates*, you are both unjust and cruell. No, no, my dear Brother, my friendship is such as no time or accidents can alter; I have seriously consider'd, as it seems you have done, all the difficulties before us; I have ballanced the Duties of a Friend with those of a Sonne, and finding your party stronger, it hath made me resolve to refuse the employment design'd me by my Father, to accompany you into *Scythia* (in case you shall leave us to retire thither) I conjure you to suffer me with you, rather than to make me suffer you to combat against your own; my Crime will be lesse, since my Obligations are greater, and no
I body

body can blame me for employing my lie for him who hath preserved it. O God, replied *Oroondates*, can you without dissimulation preferre those small services which I have done you, before obligations so inestimable as mine to you ? and can you thinke that pretence shall serve you, to refuse me a request that preceded yours ? it is onely your friendship to me that carries you to expressions of so high a nature ; but do you not know that over and above the same friendship in me, I have a love to your Sister (which as nothing else can equal, so you cannot pretend to) Withstand not then any longer a request so full of Justice, if you meane not to ruine the fortune which you have bestowed ; reason ought, and if that faile, in this case my wilfulnesse must overcome you. To this the Prince at length replied, to what will you constrain me, and what must you deedes thinke of me, if I should let my selfe be perswaded by you to a thing so unreasonable. I shall think, replied *Oroondates*, that having obliged me so perfectly hitherto, you would not atlay those Obligations, by refusing me that which I have so ardently desired ; and that at length you are resolved to yield to that which you cannot avoid ; at least replied *Artaxerxes*, commit not a Crime unnecessarily, & if you will not allow me to accompany you, stir not from this Court, and do not engage your selfe to fight against those as enemies whom you are obliged to love ; Although your Company be infinitely deare to me, yet I love my Sister well enough to resigne to her the contentment I receive in it, and you do not hate her so, but that

I thinke you could be well content to divert your selfe in her company till our returne; I conjure you not to quit her, but to give her that testimony of your love, and me of your friendship. If the other proposition displeased me, replied *Orosindates* a little sharply, this offends me mortally, since over and above my friendship to you, which will never suffer me to let you runne to any danger without my participation; I love honour, and hate infamy enough to keepe me from that of sitting idly among Ladyes, whilst you are at such a differing exercise; If you seeke occasions replied *Artaxerxes*, you will have them shortly nearer hand, since *Alexander* is already come neare the *Granique*, and against him you may much better employ that valour which the Gods have given you, than against your father's forces; he added many other reasons to these, which were all in vaine, as to the diverting my Master from his resolution to accompany him; his friendship to him being such, as made him not onely forget what he owed to those that were nearest him, but even what he owed to himselfe, and to the consideration of *Statyra* from whom he could not thinke of a separation without most violent agonies. *Darius* also on his part omitted no perswasions to detaine my Master neare him, but finding him unalterably resolved to follow his Sonne, he was forc'd to yeeld to his reasons, and to his will together; but the *Princesse Statyra* was uncapable of consolation, and seeing thus ready to be severed from her, and exposed to the greatest hazards the two persons in the world that were dearest to her, she had not strength enough of

resolution to disguise her griefe; in the meane while the beleiged *Silene* pressing the King for reliefe, he made *Artabafus* begin his march with the grosse of the Army, and the Princes who had no mind to goe that slow pace, stayed some dayes behinde to performe their farewell visits, which they did joyntly for the most part, but particularly to *Roxana*, whom my Master would not see alone, that he might not give her the opportunity to pursue what she had begun; that Princessse was very sensibly grieved at the want of it, and exprest unto him so passionate a resentment of that separation, as he could not hinder himselfe from some participation. The night before their going, having taken their leaves of the Queenes and the Princessse *Parisatis*, they went to the apartment of the Princessse *Statira*, whom they found in her Cabinet, so deeply afflicted, that they despaired of comforting her, however they did their best, but she gave so little attention to any thing of that kind, and did seeme to presage by her teares somewhat so disastrous in that Iourney, as forc'd them also to beare her Company in those sad overflowings of griefe. *Artaxerxes* to favour my Master, went out of the Cabinet, and entertain'd himselfe a while in the Princesses chamber with her women, whilst *Oroondates* kneeling downe upon a Cushion which lay at the Princesses feet, and taking her fair hands, on which his lips having dwelt a while, Madame, said he, you cannot be so injurious to me, as not to be assur'd, that your griefe, what ever the occasion were, must be as sensible to me at least as to your selfe, but if with the misfortune which severs

me from you it were possible for me to hope for any happineſſe, O Gods how exceſſive a one would mine be, if I might but pretend to any ſhare in the occaſion of thoſe tears which you ſhed, and that the ſeparation from that Brother who next you I love above all things in this world were not the onely cauſe of them; you were ingratefull replyed the Princeſſe, if you ſhould doubt my frienſhip after ſuch prooves of it as I have given you, and you are very ſhort ſighted, if you doe not diſcern cleerly, that your ſeparation alſo doth very ſenſibly afflict me; I love *Artaxerxes* indeed more than I doe my ſelfe, but yet my affection to *Oroondates*, is not at all inferiour to my frienſhip for *Artaxerxes*; the tears which I ſhed for your departure are equally divided between you, but if there may be allowed a difference without injuring my kindneſſe to my Brother, I allow you to underſtaud it to your advantage, and to draw from it what comforts you can in our common affliction, if ſo poore a thing can afford you any; But is it poſſible replyed *Oroondates*, that the interruption to your Contentment and Quiet, occaſion'd by thoſe who belong to me, ſhould have no effect to my diſadvantage upon your firſt inclination, and do you not take your ſelfe to be diſpenc'd thereby from your promiſes to the Prince your Brother? no, Madame, I will not have ſuch a doubt, I ſee your excellent ſoul hath more regard to a ſacred affection, than to all the Croſſes that our Enemies can prepare us, I ſay our Enemies, ſince I ſhall never own them for other, the conſideration of blood and nature

being farre too weake to contend with such a
 Passion as mine, and this last excesse of goodnes slaies
 more powerfull charmes upon me (if it were possi-
 ble that my heart could be more yours than it was
 before) yet let me beg of you, if I can be worthy
 to obtaine any thing, let a stop upon those teares
 that doubly murder me, adde not a second death
 by your griefe, to him whose own is strong e-
 nough to kill me; and since this cruell separation
 to which I am forced to submit hath put me in a
 condition rather to beg consolation than to give
 it, all that I am capable of, is the hope that this
 absence shall have no power with you to my pre-
 judice, and that you will still preserve a kind me-
 mory of him who adores you with more zeale
 than the Gods themselves can expect. May I (my
 divine Princeesse) cherish this confidence without
 presumption? tis true, if I consider you, and then
 make a just reflection on my selfe, I finde my
 hopes strangled in their birth, and an apprehen-
 sion succeed them, that some more worthy person;
 O cruell *Oroondates* cryed she, out interrupting
 him, doe not I expresse griefe enough to satisfie
 you, without your adding to my sorrowes by
 such disobliging suspitions? I know you say this
 but feignedly; and yet you afflict me really, O
Orontes, O *Oroondates*, I have much more reason to
 apprehend on my part that absence, wearing out
 of your mind those light Ideaes, may make you re-
 pent the paines you have taken for for a person
 whom you had seen onely by night, in haste, and
 in disorder, and in whom you have since upon bet-
 ter acquaintance observed the defects which the
 dark-

darknesse of the night had favourably concealed ; to this he coldly replyed, there is so little possibility in the thing it selfe, and I am sure you are so farre from believing what you say, that I shall renew no protestations to you upon this occasion; but well (Madame) continued he, since those lips have assur'd me of a happinesse beyond what what I durst hope for, I beseech the Gods to blesse you, to preserve you still in that humour, and never to unseale your eyes so as to let you discern how little I deserve my good fortune; and I, added the Princeesse, do not onely beseech them to preserve you, but command you to preserve your selfe, and not to hazard but upon great necessity what is no more your own, unlesse you are minded to retract your gift; and if you love my life have such a care of your own, as that you may be able to give me a good accompt of it; there is nothing in this occasion that can oblige you to precipitate your selfe, and since it is onely your friendship to my brother, and your respects to me that engage you in this party, there is no animosity to incite you to seeke your own losse in the destruction of those who are so near you; I have vowed such an obedience said he to all your Commands that I shall never depart from the least of them; and I shall as carefully preserve my selfe that I may see you againe, as I would willingly have excused my selfe from this journey, if honour, and the Prince *Artaxerxes* departure (from whom nothing ought to sever me) could possibly have permitted it; but O Gods, pursued she, (kissing againe her hands with incredible transportments

ments) what doe I not owe to the care which you expresse of the most happy *Orontes*? and what can he ever doe proportionable to the least part of it? Exactly observe his promise, replied the Princeesse, remembring that in his disobedience lyes the sure overthrow of all his happinesse, if founded in the friendship of *Statyra*; But alas pursued she, overflowing againe with teares, and raising a little her voice; I know not what presages I have about me, and though I force my selfe because I see you participate so much in my trouble, to overcome them, yet I cannot but -- At these words *Artaxerxes* returning into her Cabinet, seeing her face all bath'd with teares, Sister; said he, you ought to be asham'd to shew so little courage before those upon whom you know your griefe workes so deeply; what could you doe more if you saw one of us brought before you upon a horse to receive the last duties from you? Ah, cruell Brother, cryed out the Princeesse, why do you threaten me thus, and redouble my sorrowes by such sad presages? will you not pardon these fraile testimonies of my friendship to you, and of that other which you have given birth to? I am much oblig'd to you for both, replied the Prince; but I should be very glad to see you beare this parting with more moderation; so excessive a sadnesse, besides that it augments ours, may be lyable to misconstructions, and make lookers on beleieve that there is somewhat more in the matter than the separation from a Brother: I say not this, as if the testimonies of affection which you give my brother, were not as pleasing to me as they can be to himselfe;

himselfe; but in regard (deare Sister) that this immoderate griefe, which might be excusable if you were out of hopes to see him againe, can now serve for nothing but to bring that in danger of discovery which hitherto we have so carefully conceal'd. Well, said she, I will endeavour to arme my selfe with a resolution in what I see cannot be avoyded; yet at least, *Oroondates*, let me recommended to you the care of *Artaxerxes*, and to you, Brother, the care of *Oroondates*, since you have commaund me to love him. This discourse ended, and divers others, the day approaching, they took their farewell of her, after she had given my Master, and fastn'd about his arme a Bracelet of her haire, which with great religion he preserv'd a long time, through the various accidents of his life. By breake of day they went to receive the King's Commands, who embracing them a thousand times, saw them beginne their Journey with much griefe; and so we marcht away upon the track of the Army, which we overtook after three daies. During all their journey they were inseparable; but the Prince *Artaxerxes* who was put upon that expedition against his heart, was most commonly so sad, as that he retain'd very little of his wonted good humour; and on the other side *Oroondates* considering to what extremes his passion had carried him, and against what Enemies he now took up Armes, was oft-times almost desperat; But then the remembrance of *Statyra* supervening, would banish all those considerations, and drown all his other cares in the sense of that separation. The reasons which I have already told you, shall

excuse

excuse me from entertaining you with the particularities of that expedition, and from deducing to you at length the severall passages of a Warre, which had a suddain period; it shall suffice to tell you, that the Inhabitants of *Silene* being advertis'd of the approaching Relief, took so much courage, and behav'd themselves with so obstinate a Resolution, as allowed us all the time that was necessary for our march; and it was very lucky that that great Army was so amuz'd; which certainly without that obstacle might have made dangerous Impressions upon *Persia*. In the mean while we advanc'd great Marches, and being within a day more of *Silene*, the Councell being called, it was deliberated what course should be taken; at length the generall opinion was, that we should force the raising of the Siege, and adventure a Battell whilst the courage of the Souldiers was forward and keene, who by great outcries daily solicited their Commanders to lead them on streight to the Enemy. *Artabasus* encouraged by that ardour, and perswaded by the Councell of his Officers, dispos'd of his Troups for that bloody day, and casting his Army into three Divisions, gave the first to his Brother *Tiribasus*, a person of great Valour, and who by long practise had gain'd a perfect knowledge in Warre, he committed his Reare-guard to the charge of *Nabarsanes*, and reserv'd for himselfe the Battell; having over and above these three Divisions given to his Sonue *Hidaspes* the Conduct of five hundred Chariots of Warre, arm'd with sharp Siches, and mann'd with Median Archers, who that day much infested the Enemy

Enemy; he assign'd also 4000 Horse unto the Prince *Artaxerxes*, as a loose Body from the rest of the Army, destin'd to succour upon a suddain the severall parts of it, as need should require. This was all the employment which the Prince would at that time take upon him, although *Artabazus* with much submission made tender to him of all that was due both to his Birth and Vertue. *Oroondates* who resolv'd to be as free from duty as he could, and as little culpable as was possible, refused all Command, and onely attended the Prince to combat neare his person; this order being settled in our Army, we advanc'd to a great Plaine, some thirty or forty Furlongs from *Silen*, an open ground without any trees or covert, as proper as could be chosen for a Battell. The Enemy advertis'd of our comming was already drawn up, and expected us in very good order; for this praise doth justly belong to the King *Matheus*, that there are few Princes in the World not inferior to him in experience and good conduct of Military affaires. The night being near at hand when we arriv'd thither, *Artabazus* resolv'd to give that entirely to the refreshment of his Army, and to the preparations for the next daies service. That night then we encamp't within sight of the Scythians, whose fires were discover'd in great numbers; and knowing well their custome of watching advantages in the night, we advanc'd many parties, and strong Out-guards to avoid surprisall, and so past all the rest of the night with as much ease to our selves as the nearnesse to such an Enemy could allow us. As soon as the day

day appear'd, the two Armies being in sight of one another, cast forth mutually fierce and horrid outcries, which expressing their keenesse upon Action, rejoyc'd much their Commanders with the hopes of Victory; Notwithstanding *Artabafus* having ador'd the Sunne, and caus'd Sacrifices to be performed through all the Camp, visited himselfe in person a great part of the Immolations, in which for the most part the Intrailes were found defective, either of the Liver, or the Heart, and the fire which consum'd them burnt blew, casting forth a black and thick smoak, which instead of ascending to Heaven, spread it self in dark mists through the Army, some of the Offerings being stricken brake loose from the Priests, and running about the Camp with horrible yellowings, caus'd great disorder there; over and above these ill presages, which *Artabafus* and the other Officers discerning conceal'd, for fear of intimidating the Souldiers, the day was so extraordinary dark and dismall, as scarce could we see one another, and seem'd as it were already to mourne for those many thousands whose last it should be; however this hinder'd not the Armies from advancing towards one another in very good order, nor from expressing a mutuall impatience to joine Battell. I leave it to you to judge what thoughts probably my Master was tormented with, already observing the place where in all likelyhood his Father was, and already feeling the remorse of a Crime of which he expected a present punishment from the Gods. I for my part made no question but the nearest and dearest friends I had (who were persons of some note among

mong the Scythians) were in that Army ; but having no other thought then, than of my Master's Interest, I had really quite forgot my own, and was onely afflicted in his misfortune. But the Prince *Artaxerxes* his perplexities incomparably exceeded ours, he had a face all of sadnesse, and it being impossible to attribute that change to want of courage, one might easily read in it that he went to this Battell against his heart. He came close to my Master, and sayd to him in his eare, you shall see that it is by force that I march against your friends, and that I had rather dye than hurt any of those that you are oblig'd to love ; the throng of those about them hindered my Prince from answering him ; in the meane while the Commanders visiting the Rankes, and shewing themselves to all their Troups, endeavoured to animate both by their words and gesture the lesse forward, and discovering generally such an ardour for fight as they would wish, they gave their last orders, and the Instruments of Warre the last signall. It was then that the dimme light of that day, sad and obscure of it self, was quite darkned with a cloud of Darts from both sides, and the earth cover'd with infinite numbers of bodies taken from their severall Rankes ; but this distant way of fight not answering the fervour of the forwardest, they quitted their missive weapons, and the first Troups joining beganne a close and fierce fight ; the first Charge was performed with such fury, as soon gave the earth another tincture, and the Squadrons of the Scythians and Persians being thoroughly mingled, made a horrid spectacle of cruelty, disorder

order and confusion. The Scythians had some advantage at this first encounter, but the following Troups seconding the more advanc'd, and *Hidaspes* breaking in among the Scythians with his sithed Chariots, so mowed downe their Infantry, as soon repair'd the Persians condition. It is impossible for me to describe unto you the particulars of that Battell, for besides that it would be tedious; I could not be present in many places, nor witnesse of an infinite number of memorable actions which were performed in that deplorable day; I shall onely tell you that in that generall commixture of Troups, all that had remained of order or of obedience was lost, and the Commanders on both sides being no longer distinguishat in so strange a confusion, were faine at length to fight as private men. *Artaxerxes* all this while stirred not, restraining the Impatience of his Troups by pretences that he observ'd the motions and successes of the Battell, and that he waited the time to succour his friends most opportunely; but the truth is, he industriously deferr'd the assailing those whom for *Oroondates* sake he lov'd; till at length being assaulted himself by a body of Horse which came upon us, and charg'd us with great fury, we were forc'd to defend our selves; notwithstanding he favour'd them all he could, and had receiv'd himselfe two hurts before he would draw blood of an Enemy. *Oroondates*, who perceiv'd it, and withall how dangerous that partiality might be, *Artaxerxes*, said he, if your friendship to me obliges you to let your selfe be kill'd, my death shall soon dispence you from that consideration.

sideration: He had scarce ended these few words when seeing him receive a third hurt, he flew with such fury at him that gave it him, that he struck him dead at his feet, and overthrowing a second with the same quickness, he charged into the midst of the Scythians with a rage inexpressible.

Artaxerxes whom losse of blood, nor the care of his own life, had not power to animate, seeing him in that danger would not quit him, but pressing in after him, and fighting then for his friend, soon gave us proofes of an incomparable Valour: I did my best to second them, and it was my fortune not to lose them. The Persians heightened in their spirits by so glorious an example, fought with so great courage, that the first Squadrons of the Enemy beganne to give ground, when a new reserve comming to sustaine them, environ'd us on all sides. There it was, O Misfortune which *Asia* can never recover! it was there (alas) that the poor *Artaxerxes* being no longer restrain'd by any consideration, as fighting then for the life of his deare *Oroondates*, whom he saw in eminent danger, having hewen himself down a rampier of dead bodies, fell from his horse depriv'd of life by a multitude of wounds; the last testimony which he gave of his affection, was, an offer to say in his dying Accent, Farewell *Oroon* — He could goe no further, but at these last syllables tumbling among the Horses feet expired.

Here *Araxes* had no longer power to resist the effects of sad a remembrance, which forced from him such a flood of teares as he was faine to allow them a free course, whilst *Lysimachus* sensibly touched

touched also with so dolefull a story, exprest his compassion by the like deluge and lamentations. These distempers of pittie having possesst them at least a quarter of an houre, *Lyfimachus* at length spake thus to *Araxes*; That rare young man whom you have so well painted out to me, as you have made me indeed in love with him, was doubtlesse brought to such an untimely end, meerly for the glory of *Alexander*; and the Gods having decreed such glorious Conquests to that great King, certainly could not have more facilitated the meanes of them than by taking away that Prince, who must needs have retarded, if not frustrated his Triumphs. If the beginnings of so gallant a life did charme me, I assure you the end of it hath wounded me inexpressibly; but I beseech you, *Araxes*, continue, since I finde my selfe so interested in your relation, that I cannot be more concerned in my owne life than I am in your Prince's. *Araxes* having recover'd himselfe a little during this discourte, and wiping his eyes; O Gods! pursued he, what did *Oroondates* become at that sad spectacle? Imagine, Sir, all that rage and despair can produce in so high a minde as his, and so you may imagine some part of it; for seeing him whom he loved so passionately trod under the feet of the insolent Souldiers, he suddainly made such a massacre among them, as dyed himselfe and all the field in blood; he fought now no longer for his own life, but being resolved to lose it, he resolved also to accompany it with such a Sacrifice as might in some measure satisfie the Ghost of his Friend; here it was that he appear'd

to me much greater, and more terrible than ever; the horroure that accompanied his person all covered with blood, and the fury of his Actions which way soever he turned himself, struck even me with terrour; grief and rage had quite taken away the use of his voice, but had so augmented his strength that he seemed immortall and invulnerable; he made himself way every where, and carried with him inevitable destruction, against whomsoever he directed his fury; the Gods know well that I employed all my power in his service; and if they left me a life, it was not by my care to preserve it, but finding a way cut open and without resistance where ever he past, I had little difficultie to follow him; but in the end we had infallibly laine by it, and my Master had found on the point of a thousand swords, that death which he sought so earnestly, if the flight of great body of ours had not overborne us, and carried us away with them whether we would or no; *Oroondates* laid about him on all hands indifferently, but all in vaine, the throng hoising him out of his saddle bore him away in spight of all his resistance till he was out of all ranks; as soon as he was free from that confused multitude, wearinesse and losse of blood cast him into a trance without sense or shew of life; although I was extremely hurt also, I resolved never to abandon him dead or alive, whatever happened, but seeing that by little and little our men forsook the ground, desirous to provide for his safety in case he had yet any remainder of life, I made him be carryed a good distance from the battell by three souldiers whom I hired to it;

and getting up upon the next horse I met with, I followed him with much paine; It was then upon the point of Sun-set, and the Armies having fought it out with great obstinacy, seemed both entirely and equally defeated, only that of the Persians had lost its ground by the Cowardise of *Nabarzanes*, afterwards the horrid Murderer of his King, who in that day shewed himselfe very unworthy of the charge he had, and turning his back shamefully, he put all the rereguard, which he commanded, in disorder; But the Scythians found themselves so weakned by a losse no whit inferiour to the Persians, that they were in no cōfession to minde the pursuit; In the meane while he pleased to think in what a lamentable estate I was, seeing my Master in such a condition; as soon as we were farre enough from the Armyes, I made him be laid down, and unlaced his helmet, which I had no sooner done, but the fresh aire brought him to himselfe againe; but he had no sooner opened his eyes, than wildly rowling them about upon all of us that were near him, he cried out (*O Artaxerxes*) and shut them againe with all the signes of a dying man; It is most certaine that I should suddenly have employed all my little remainder of my strength to have made away my selfe, if I had not bin hindred by the Souldiers that assisted us; and had they not represented unto me, that without unfaithfulnesse I could not leave my Master at a time when possibly my succour and assistance might be more necessary to him than ever. This discourse giving me some hopes of his life, made me resolve to preserve a while mine own; we
were

were not distant from *Brysa* above two howers march, it was a little town where my Master & divers other principall men of the Army had left their baggage before the battell, the remembrance I had of those conveniences, and the knowledge that that place, though a little one, was not ill provided of necessaries for his helpe, made me resolve to carry him thither in the best manner we could; so that setting him a horseback with a strong man behind to uphold him, we marcht thitherward at a reasonable rate, although in truth my hurts were such as scarce allowed me strength to keep my saddle; but being inspired with so ardent an affection to my Prince, and favoured by moon-light, which succeeding such a dark day appeared the brighter, and guided by those charitabie souldiers that knew the Country and wayes; we arrived an hower or two within night at the gates of *Brysa*; we had some difficulty to get them open, but having made our selves known, at length after the usuall ceremonies at such a season the Governour let us in; wee went directly to the house where my Master's Equipage was, and having put him to bed we got to him the Physitians and Chirurgions of the Town; as ill as I was my selfe, I would not goe to bed till I had seen his wounds searched, and understood the Physicians opinions of them; which after a long consultation upon them, were, that if he were well handled, and that no ill accidents intervened, he might recover. After I had received this assurance, and seen the first dressing of eight or ten hurts which he had, I went to bed in a pallet in his Chamber, resolved to be no further from him, al-

though he had excellent servants about him, and particularly those two which we brought out of *Scythia*, whose diligence was of great use to him in that necessity; I had my self five or six hurts, which the Physicians found in no wise mortall; and having applyed unto them the same things that to my Master's, they laboured to recover him from the sound he was in; but what paines soever they took about it, it was the next day ere he opened his eyes; as soon as he was come to himself, he seemed full of wonder and trouble to finde himself yet alive; and cried out as loud as his weaknesse would permit him, O Gods, do you yet force me to live? here he paused, and having looked round upon all those that were about him, and over all the Chamber, and conjecturing the truth of his Condition (Barbarous creatures) said he, you strive in vaine to preserve my life; and the Gods though they have suffer'd you thus farre to prolong it, have not deprived me of the meanes to end it; having said thus, he endeavoured to raise himselfe in his bed, but was so weak as he could scarce hold up his head; finding himselfe in that condition, and putting down his hands where he found his hurts paine him, he met with the plaisters and swathings which had bin applyed to them, and judging that to be the best way to execute what his weaknesse would not suffer him to doe any other, he began to undoe them (just as you saw he did yesterday) but those who attended him hindred him from it. What would you doe Sir said the Governour of the Town to him, who was come to visit him? defend my self from your cruelty,

cruelty, replied he angerly, looking upon him with Indignation; but doe you not consider, replied the Governour, that such a despair offends the Gods in the highest nature, and that it is from them you are to expect that period of your life, which they have decreed? Since they have raviſht from me that of *Artaxerxes*, replied the Prince, they have given over the care of mine; and having taken from me the joy of life, they have alſo taken away the deſire, and diſpenc'd me from the Duty to preſerve it; but Sir added he, what is becom of that great Courage which made you ſo valued by all the world? it is the ſame, replied *Oroondates*, which makes me now paſſionately ſeek one death to free my ſelf from a thouſand, and let me ſatiſſie you that your cares are vainly imployed to divert me from that reſolution; you may augment my griefes by delaying the remedy, but not hinder me from executing that by faſting, which my weakneſſe and your cruelty will not allow me a ſpeedier way; my bed was ſo near his that I could eaſily hear all he ſaid; and truly I could not much condemn him, knowing that ſuch a friendſhip as his with *Artaxerxes*, cimented by ſuch powerfull obligations, could not ſuffer without violent agonies ſo cruell a ſeparation; and really the rare merits of that young Prince had made in my ſoul ſuch impreſſions of ſadneſſe for his loſſe that I could not but accompany every word and groane of my Maſter upon that occaſion with a river of teares; nor did I finde any conſolation fit to be applyed to a grief ſo recent and ſo juſt, notwithstanding I did my utmoſt to divert him from that obſtinate de-

signe of dying; his life, God knowe; being farre dearer to me than my own. Sir said I (restraining the best I could my teares) doe you not yet preserve judgement enough about you, to consider what you are doing? as soon as he heard my voice, forcing himselfe to turn his head that way, *Araxes* said he, is it you? yes (Sir) said I, it is *Araxes*; why then blessed be the Gods, replied he, and if thou beest still my faithfull *Araxes*, wilt thou suffer the inhumanity of these my persecutors? Sir, replied I, I am as much hurt and as weak as your selfe, and if I have any strength left me, it must be employed to put you in minde, that by persevering in such an obstinacy, you make the Gods your Enemies; and thou makest thy selfe mine, said he, if thou perseverest in thine; but if thou art still my dear and faithfull *Araxes*, my Contentment ought to be dearer to thee, than to expose me, as thou wouldest doe, to eternall grief and misery; for pitty sake continued he, with the teares in his eyes, (seeing his servants so diligent about him to hinder him from what he most desired) be kinde to him, whom thou hast profest to love, and if all your affections for me be not quite extinguisht, be not so cruell as to hinder me from the sweet period of my paines; now 'tis that I stand in need of thy assistance, and [that I conjure thee by helping me to die, to give me the clearest proofes of that fidelity which thou hast so often vowed. I was struck with such distraction, that I had no power to answer him but by my teares, whilst he continued such dismall lamentations, as did rend all the hearers hearts with pitty. Deare

Araxes

Ariaxerxes would he say, all drowned in teares, if thou retainest yet any memory of him that loved thee beyond himself, deliver me from their tyranny who keep me by force from following thee, and if the memory of our friendship be not quite departed from thee, comfort him at least with a sight of thee, whom thy losse holds in torments farre worse than that cruell death which sever'd us; I had not the satisfaction to bid thee farewell, and if my memory faile me not, thy last care was to expresse unto me that thou didst not lose thy affection, when thou lost thy life; had not the meanes to close thine eyes, and are mine still open? yes; but open onely to teares, and to objects of horror. O unjust Gods, and full of inhumanity, if you were greedy of blood, and that that of so many thousands whom the King of Scythia's rage hath sacrificed, could not satisfie you, why did you not take that of his miserable sonne, and preserve the innocent *Ariaxerxes* at the price of his life? yes Monster, yes disnatur'd father, I wish thy life could redeeme my deare brothers to recover him, I should as easily shake off all nature and humanitie, as you have done all pitty; neither thy guards nor my own wounds should be any obstacles to my rage; I should fly to that revenge as thou flyest to thine, and to the satiating thy ambition. Unfortunate *Statyra*, continued he, how ill have I acquitted my selfe of the charge you gave me? with what shame should I appeare before her whom I have so mortally offended? how should I answer her if she demanded a Brother of me, whom she had recommended to my care, nay but a

Brother to whom I owed all my fortunes and my being? He pronounced these words with such mortall agonies, as would have pierced the most insensible hearts; for my part, not being able either to condemne or to suffer them, I thought it best to let his passion take for a while its course, rather than to sharpen it by opposition, conceiving that there might be more probability of curing a disease at length, that seemed as yet incurable, than by contending with its first violencies; In the meane while he having paused some time, Miserable *Oroondates* continued he, miserable *Satyra*, and miserable King of *Persia*, what a losse is yours? Unhappy night, unhappy sight, and more unhappy disguisall, to what gullies of misery have you precipitated me? Cruell now, but then most faithfull *Araxes*, how wholesome were thy Counsell? how happy had *Oroondates* been, if his then but growing passion, had allowed him to follow them? By good fortune the Governour was then withdrawn, and those who attended him being none of the subtillest, attributed these discourses, which might well have discovered him, to the ravings that his distemper caused. It was bootlesse to represent unto him that such words and distracted lamentations destroyed his health; he was deafe to all their remonstrances; and if at any time he answer'd them, it was onely in entreaties that they would suffer him to die, or at least to be quiet; he pass the greatest part of that day in thoe and the like transportments, without either taking sustenance or hearkning to counsell; if I opened my mouth to speak, he repuls'd me as the rest, and I had

had despaired of ever reducing him to any reason, if I had not fallen upon the thought of vanquishing his friendship by the considerations of his love, and to serve my selfe of the power of *Statyra*, to make him live for her sake who would so faine die for her Brothers. He having tormented himselfe long, and his weaknesse causing some relaxation in the violence of his distempers, and seeing him at length with his eyes held up to Heaven, sighing and sobbing every minute, without uttering any thing; Sir, said I, I doe not presse you to receive this affliction with an equall temper, but onely as a man who hath not lost all command of his passions; I cannot condemne your teares upon so just an occasion; But on the other side I cannot but condemn your despaire; your teares expresse you a man, and that as such you resent the affliction that Heaven sends you; but your obstinacy to destroy your selfe makes you no more a man, since by it you overthrow your reason at a time when you have most need of it. Since then these considerations have no power over you, and that it is in vaine to endeavour your consolation, either by reason, or by feare of the Gods (which it seemes you have forgotten) I am obligde, Sir, in this extremitie, to set before your thoughts the Princeesse, to whom you have dedicated your life, and without whose consent you now seeke to destroy it. I beseech you Sir consider what you doe, and whether your obstinacie to dispose of that without her allowance be not a mortall Crime against her; remember Sir the Protestations you have made of an entire resignation of your self

self to her ; overwhelm her not with so many fatall losses, since that which is already inevitable, is likely to bring her to her grave , unlesse she preserve her self for your sake : Yes Sir, it is not to be doubted but she will preserve her self for you, but she will have great need of your help to do it ; and can you abandon her to an affliction wherein the comfort of a person so dear to her as you, can be her only preservative ? Lay this to heart, Sir, I conjure you, and give me leave to tell you, that if this consideration have no power over you, she will have much reason to dis-believe your Love. I added to these words many more pressing ones to the same strain, which I found had a suddain effect upon his despairing soul ; notwithstanding he made no reply to them, but being cast by them into a profound meditation, he gave me leisure to continue to him many discourses of the same nature ; which I did (although the Physitians for my own healths sake commanded me silence) till such time as I clearly perceived in him a greater composednesse of minde than before. He soon beganne to make his lamentations with lesse violence, suffer'd them to visit and dresse his wounds, and refus'd not some sustenance which they offer'd him ; yet still with such sighes and groanes as I could not but apprehend that his grief alone might suffice to kill him. Seeing him once in a way to allow of his cure, I began to think of mine, and to obey the Physitians in the silence which they had enjoyn'd me ; my Master also beganne now to conform himself to their prescriptions, and to be willing to prolong his life to another

ther fight of *Statyra*, that he might obtain her permission to end it.

The third day after the Battell we were inform'd by the Governour, that the Scythians finding themselves too much weakned to make any longer stay in *Persia*, did retreat with their Troops, and that some of them had already repast the *Avaxis*, but that before their departure, to the end that none of their Kindred might be left to the mercy of wild Beasts, they had fired the Camp, and promiscuously consumed all the dead bodies, as wel of their Enemies as Friends, which gave an addition to our affliction, depriving us thereby of all hopes to render the last duties to *Astaxerxes*. Two daies after we understood that *Artabazus* having lost in the Battell his Sonne *Hidaspes*, and his Brother *Tiribazus*, was encamp't with the remainder of the Army between *Byrsa* and *Silene*; but withall, that seeing the Scythians dislodg'd, and having received Letters from *Darius* recalling him with those Forces to his service against *Alexander*, who was already enter'd upon his Territories, he began to bend his march towards *Persepolis*, having left all necessary orders upon the Frontiers. I shall not be large with you upon the subject of *Darius* his, the Queens, and Princesses mournings for the losse of so excellent a Son and Brother; we were too far distant to be eye-witnesses of it; but we have since understood that the King supported that losse with lesse patience than that of his Empires, and that the Princesses who so dearly lov'd him, having no more love for life without him, were like to have followed him for griefe; and

and I may truly say, that never was any Prince so universally lamented throughout all *Asia*; although already so dangerously infested with your Armes, as that the consideration of their own calamities might have dispenc'd them from so deep a sense of the Royall Families Misfortunes. As for what concerned our selves, being in a place where we were serv'd with much care, and tended by persons well vers'd in their Art, we were soon out of danger; but our wounds (chiefly my Master's) were so many and so great, that we were faine to tend our cure six Moneths and upwards. You may imagine in that time the impatience of my Prince, when as being given over to sorrow, and having deferr'd onely his designe of dying till he could see his Princeesse, he found himselfe now by those tedious hurts so long kept back from that sight, at a season when both his love and honour did most of all hasten him to her; he had her name eternally in his mouth, and kist a thousand times a day that Bracelet of her haire which she gave him at his departure; as soon as he saw a likelyhood of my recovery, he resolv'd to send me to her, to bring him the knowledge of her condition, and to acquaint her with his; but he had hardly begunne to instruct me, when I fell into a violent relapse, which reduc'd me to so great extremity, that I quitted not my bed till a good while after him; this accident had like to have broken his heart with griefe, but in fine, not daring to venture a message of that consequence by any of his other domestiques, he was forc'd to take patience, and to expect his recovery and mine.

We

We were daily visited by the Governour of the place, a good old Gentleman of very agreeable conversation, and who constantly brought us all the news he received. One day we saw him come into the chamber extremely sad, and my Master having askt him the occasion, Ah, Sir, said he, it is now that the Gods have abandon'd us, and that the Royall house of *Persia* is threatned with ruin, and this Empire with a general desolation. These words obliging my Prince to presse him further, he sate him down by his Bed-side, and spake thus unto him; Know, Sir, that *Alexander* that young Conquerour whose fame is already so farre spread, has past the *Granique*, and with a handfull of men routed all the King's Forces sent to oppose his passage; after the wonders which this man hath done, he passes for no lesse than a God. The obstacles of a deep & rapid River, whose Banks were of a height inaccessible, and cover'd with infinite Squadrons of Persians, have not been able to give the least check to his courage, nor to retard his Victory, but have onely serv'd to heighten the glories of it; for he throwing himselfe the first into the River, and obliging all his by that example to contemne a danger which their King brav'd in that manner, he gain'd the opposite shore in spite of all our resistance, and combating first with the Javelin, and then with the Sword, kill'd with his own hand *Rezases* and *Spithridates* two brave Commanders, whose valour hath doubtlesse made them known to you. The Macedonians imitating their Prince's magnamity did performe things prodigious, and (to shorten the sad story to you) with
the

the losse of thirty or forty men they have kill'd thirty thousand of ours, and put all the rest to flight, remaining Masters of the field, and of all the Persians Equipage; nor is this all; that strange victory hath brought such a change upon all our affaires, and struck such a terrour of his name among the Persians, that *Sardis* it selfe, the capitall Town of the lower Provinces along the Seacoast, had yeelded it self up to him without resistance; all the rest have followed that example, except *Miletus* and *Halicarnassus* which made some resistance, but were within few daies taken by force, and becomming soon after Master with little difficulty of all the neighbouring Country, his heart is rais'd with his prosperity, and with the little resistance he findes, that he hath in a few daies over-runne all the coast of *Pamphylia*; and that which seems strangest of all, and which makes the Persians apprehend that the Gods themselves do interest their care in his Conquest, is, that that Region which hath never been seen without Stormes, and where in the greatest Calmes there usually went as high a Sea as elswhere in the greatest Tempest, and which even without that is hardly navigable, by reason of the sharp Rocks which the Sea onely hides, and which runne in great number all along the coast, hath as it were to a Divinity submitted to him, and during all his voyage appear'd in such a tranquillity, as hath never there been seen. He imbarqu'd at *Phaselides*, and past the Straight which is commonly called *Climon*, or the Ladder, and assailing the *Pisidians* hath in a few daies conquer'd all *Phrygia*,
and

and now he is turning his Arms towards *Paphlagonia* and *Cappadocia*, that he may take his march into the higher Countries of *Asia*. Our King, whose courage these changes have not dismayed, is now near *Susa*, where he forms a new Army to stop the course of this impetuous Torrent that ravages his Territories with so strange and suddaine a violence. It is beleev'd that it will not be lesse than of three hundred thousand fighting men, which certainly this *Alexander*, how valiant and how invincible soever he appeare, cannot possibly withstand with five and thirty thousand foot, and five thousand horse, which is the utmost of his Forces. It is true that they tell wonders of the goodnesse of his Troopes, and of the order and discipline which is observ'd among them; they are all of old Souldiers, whereof the greatest number have been train'd up in the Warres of King *Philip*, where *Alexander* observing their valour, made a speciall selection of them for this expedition. Every common Souldier looks like a Captaine, and every Captaine like a King; and those that have seen them report miracles of many brave Princes about his person, such as one would take every one of them for an *Alexander*. This was the relation which the Governour made, my Prince accompanying it with many a sigh, and many a sad expression, manifesting the grief that oppress'd him to finde himselfe in that manner restrained to his bed, whilst the poor *Darius* and all his glorious Family, so dear to him, were at the very Eve of their ruine; Great Gods! said he, are you so concern'd in the glory of one man, as to exalt that,

you

you will consent to the destruction of the noblest Image the world hath of your own greatness: Ah, how well doe you punish, and with how much justice, my faint-heartednesse? And how dearly doe you make me pay for that life, which I preserve with so much unworthinesse after the death of *Artaxerxes*. This discourse ended, he fell to complaine unto the Physicians of the tediousnesse of their cure, promising them excessive recompences, if they would but hasten it. I know not whether or no his earnestnesse contributed to his recovery, or whether it had an effect to make him better served, but he soon visibly amended, and to be short, in a moneth after this news, we were up and fit to endure the toyle of that Journey to which my Prince had prepared himselfe. Before our departure we understood that *Alexander* had already mastered all *Paphlagonia*, and that in a short time he expected the same successe over *Capadocia*. My Prince who over and above the Interest of *Darius* was already strongly stimulated by an emulation of *Alexander's* fame, and jealous of those Victories which he so gloriously obtained, was no sooner able to get a horse-back, but he with all his Equipage left *Byrsa*, taking his leave of the Governour, from whom he had received great civilities and testimonies of affection, and to whom at his going he gave very noble presents. If my Prince had not known the implacable hatred of the King his Father against him of *Persia*, he would have gone directly into *Scythia*, and thence have importun'd succours to serve him; but being certaine that in stead of that the King *Masdeus* would
be

be sure to adde all his power to the ruin of *Darius*; he laid aside those thoughts, and resolved to expect with patience till Heaven should send a change in their affairs; in the mean time he would return to *Statyra*; and serve her Father with his person whilst the Gods should permit him. In this designe, taking good guides along with us, we marcht great Journeyes on the way to *Susa*, where the King was then forming his Army; but we had not gone above three or four daies Journey, when we understood that he had not only drawn it together, fully as strong as the Governour had told us it would be, but that it was upon its march towards *Cilicia* to meet *Alexander*; who having already Conquer'd *Capadocia*, was advancing towards *Syria* to encounter it; this advertisement made us alter our course a little, and retarded us from being so soon with the King as we designed; where before we arrived, my Master received news which sharply afflicted him, it was of the death of the valiant *Memnon*, the bravest of all *Darius* his Captains, and the man whom *Alexander* most apprehended; and indeed it was the knowledge of his death that confirmed his resolution of invading the upper *Asia*, since it had lost the defence of so redoubted a Warriour. *Oroondates* payd many tears to his memory; and to the affliction of his fair *Bersina*; but he was yet so possess'd with his own sorrows for the losse of his dear *Artaxerxes* as made him lesse sensible of any other.

Araxes would have continued his discourse, but that the night comming upon them, obliged them to retire, and to remit the rest untill next day.

day. *Lyfimachus* had hearkened to him with to much earnestnesse, and took so great an Interest in the wonders which he related, that he consented not unto that intermission without much trouble, but being forced to it, he returned into the house, running up directly into *Oroondate's* Chamber, whom he found in a reasonable hopefull condition as to his bodily cure; but that of his minde was so lamentable, as a person much lesse interessed would have been deeply touched with compassion; he would not oblige him to speak, knowing it prejudiciall to his health, and therefore lett he might give him occasion by staying longer with him, he bid him Good night, and retiring to his Chamber and Bed, he past that night as he had done the former.

The end of the Second Book.

THE



THE
THIRD BOOK
OF
CASSANDRA.

UT the disconsolate *Oroondates* still more and more mortally wounded with reflexions on the loss of his *Princesse*, could tast no rest in that place which seem'd fram'd a purpose for it ; he past the houres of his condemnation (for so he call'd the necessity which constrain'd him to live) in pains far more grievous and insupportable than those of death it self ; the night bringing with its darknesse more dismalnesse, and the silence in his *Charuber* helping on his melancholy *Imaginations*, and filling his mind with objects of greatest horreur, did represent unto him his present condition in formes so dismall, as he was ready almost to dye with the sense of being oblig'd to live ; then it was that all the accidents of his life, as well the pleasing, as the

L 2

sad

lad and tatall thronged upon his memory ; but those, to torment him with the remembrance of what blessings he had lost, and these with the sense of what deep misfortunes at present overwhelm'd him ; he makes reflexion on the strange birth, wonderfull progresse, and tragicall successes of his Love ; and out of all three concludes, that the Gods did take such pains to pursue him with such a torrent of successive misfortunes, onely to make his life the highest example that ever was, of their judgments, and of the miseries into which those are precipitated whom they have abandon'd. He repa's'd again in his imagination that ocean full of tempests in which he had been tost for the space of ten years, and then recalling equally to his mind all the most memorable accidents of his life, he deeply afflicted himself in the matters of Affliction, but found no delight at all in the subjects of Joy and Consolation ; he finds cleerly that his soul entirely prepossess'd with sorrow could give no admission to any other impressions, nor was capable of any thing but the agitations of despair ; but when after his running over all, he comes to the bleeding catastrophe of his Love, and that after such rigours, absences, prisons, rages, jealousies, and the cruell commands of his Princeesse, he presents her death to his imagination, nay but a bloody and a barbarous death ; 'twas here indeed that all his constancy vanisht, and that his courage which had scorn'd to yeeld to all other misfortunes, succumbes and expires under the weight of this affliction ; he sets before him that beautifull, that magnanimous Queen, the last Reliques of the illustrious

illustrious blood of *Persia*, Widdow to the greatest of men, laying out her naked neck to the sword of *Perdicas*, and to the unmercifull executioners of *Roxana's* fury; he represents her to himself all bloody and disfigur'd with wounds, rendring that lovely body a horrid and frightfull object; then his Imagination follows her in the Well, buried under a heap of stones, and according to the force and distractednesse of its operation, it represents her to him in all the strange and pittifull forms imaginable; then he precipitates himself again into despair, and forgetting his former resolutions to tend his recovery, he breaks forth into outcries, and gives himself over to heart-breaking lamentations, drowning himself in a flood of tears that flowed from his eyes, as from two eternall Fountains, he breaks out from that silence which was enjoyned him for his health, and the absence of *Lysimachus*, *Araxes*, and the Physicians, giving him liberty to discharge his heart by his lips, of some part of its oppression, Divine Princeesse, he would often cry out, if your soul be not wholly abstracted from, all thought of this world, and that you yet preserve some remembrance of your faithfull *Oroondates*, Excellent Queen, excellent *Statyra*, and celestially soul; turn yet your eyes upon your miserable creature; and if you are the same *Statyra*, so religiously adored by the poor *Orontes*, see that I am the same *Orontes* still, who so religiously adored the divine *Statyra*; I am still the same, I declare it to my shame and to my confusion; I say I am still the same, unlesse the guilt of living after you hath quite transformed me;

me; Yes, my Princeſſe, I am living after you, but if you rightly underſtood my love, you know that I will not long live after you; that faint-heartedneſſe of which I accuſe my ſelf, is ſo onely in ſhew, but in truth an effect of courage, and of the love I bear you. I will dye *Statyra*, but I will not dye till you are reveng'd, and ſo many deaths as I ſuffer every hour I ſtay behind you, ought to ſatiſſie you more than that one death in which you have preceded me; it was enough for you my Queen to dye once, but this wretched author of your death, the miſerable cauſe of *Roxana's* hatred, ought to loſe a thouſand lives for that one which he hath made you loſe. At theſe words he pauſed, rowling in his mind a thouſand furious reſolutions, and meditating as many kinds of revenge, which appeared all too light for his indignation; Fire and Sword ſeemed too gentle for his ſatiſfaction, and *Roxana* and *Perdiccas* ſubjects too low and weak for his rage; he wiſht that the Gods would raiſe another *Alexander* in their defence, or that all the Earth were armed in their protection; ſuch extravagancies as theſe toſt he in his thoughts; nay more, he (the reſt of whoſe life had appeared full of moderation and piety) did now in his diſtempers accuſe, and even brave the Gods, challenging them as it were to ſide with his Enemies. Great Gods, would he ſay, you, who to liſt up *Alexander* to ſuch a pitch of glory as never was attained to by mortall, have deſtroyed the Royall houſe of *Persia*, caſt down the pride of ſo many Kings, ſubmitted ſo many Empires, and ſacrificed ſo many thouſands of men to his ambition,

tion, and who have in the mean time made me wear out my miserable youth in love, in irons, in unknown Countries, without name, glory, or fortune, although you had given me as great a one, a condition as illustrious, a heart as high, and a Soul capable of as great things as his; if you had a hate to what I loved, why had you not protected that which was so dear to that great man to whom you were so prodigall of all your favours? was it so great a Crime in the Princess *Statyra* to have bin loved by the wretched *Oroondates*, as could not be out-ballanced by the glory of being wife to the great *Alexander*? was it not enough for your satisfaction to have tormented, afflicted, persecuted me even from my earliest youth, by the violence of my passion, by the death of my deare *Ataxerxes*, by such long and insupportable absences, by such tedious Imprisonments, by the losse of *Darius* and his Empires, by the marriage of *Statyra*, by her anger, by the pursutes of *Roxana*, by my banishment, by such painfull and dangerous Iurneis, by so many hazards, crosses and torments under which the courage of your own *Alexander* would infallibly have fainted? was not all this enough, cruell heavens, but that with my life you must also ravish from me in the very port the fruits of all my labours, which I was ready to have reaped, and which I had so gloriously merited? blind Deities by what Crimes have I drawn upon me from you so eminent, so unexampled a hatred? many other wild excursions he made of this nature, till at length with the wearinesse of his agitation his

senses were overcome, and cast unawares into a slumber, and were forc'd to yield a suspence in that way to some part of his agonies; but the whose Idea was eternally before him waking, appeared to him now in his sleep, and having entertain'd himself with her Image all the night, at break a day he had a fancy that he heard her voice at his beds head, often pronouncing his name, and concluding at length it is he, *Orontes*, my deare *Orontes*. These words which he imagin'd to hear really, made him suddenly start up in his bed, and opening the curtaine he believed with the same confidence that he saw in his Chamber the very face of his Princeesse; This sight strangely surprising him, made him cry out, and thrusting his head out of the bed that he might see more distinctly, the Image suddenly vanished away; the poore Prince troubled with this vision, and not being able to distinguish whether the strength of his Imagination had begot that apparition without any reall being, or whether the Ghost of his deare *Statyra* had indeed appeared unto him, he continued in great perplexity; yet the last opinion being the strongest with him, he concluded that his Princeesse was come in that manner, to comfort him in his affliction, or to animate him by it in the revenge which she expected from him; in this believe he cryed out, whether flies my Princeesse, whither fly you? withdraw not your selfe so soon from him that dies for you; dead as you are, you appeare no lesse charming to me than while you lived; nor doe I deserve to be more hatefull to you now, than when I was you dear

Orontes

Orontes; he had said more, if he had not seen *Lyfimachus* enter his chamber, who coming to his bed side, gave him the good morow; and seeing him in a sweat, asked him the cause of his distemper, The Prince much moved, and in disorder, crossing his hands upon his breast, said unto him with a great sigh; O *Lyfimachus* what have I seen, O *Lyfimachus* what have I seene! and stopping at these few words, he seemed so transported into contemplation, as made *Lyfimachus* the more earnest to know what the matter was, and having conjur'd to tell him; What stay we for replied the Prince? why deferre we any longer that revenge to which we are bound? Our Princesses come themselves to summon us, and at the same instant that you appear'd in my Chamber, *Statyra* disappear'd from before my eyes; my eyes, these eyes have seen her without dilusion; these eares have heard that same voyce which was wont whiles she lived to pronounce the Oracles of my destiny. I speake unto you in my right senses; I have seen her more beautifull, more goodly, and more charming than ever; and though I saw her onely passing like lightning, I could easily and clearly distinguish those lineaments which are so deeply imprinted in my soul. *Lyfimachus* at this discourse holding up his hands to heaven, Great Gods, said he, since it is your pleasure that our two destinies should be so linkt together, may they be never sever'd, but bring to a speedy end misfortunes so tedious and so insupportable; I make no doubt at all, continued he, turning to the Prince, of the truth of what you tell me, since I my self have had
the

the like adventure, for passing through a gallery next this Chamber, the Image of the Princess *Parisatis* appear'd to me; she had the same fashion, and the same countenance; but as I was about to prostrate my self before her, she vanish'd so suddenly that without this accident befallen you also, I should have thought my fancy had abus'd me, and that I had seen that onely in imagination which I finde now I saw really and without deceit. *Oroondates* hearing this from *Lyfimachus*, Let us no more doubt it said he, let us no more doubt it, *Lyfimachus*, our Princesses are come to visit us, and to sollicite us for that revenge which we have promis'd them; perhaps also they require from us the last duties, and that their fair Bodies having yet no other sepulchre than a heap of stones, expect from us such funerall honours as are due to their quality; which may be the occasion that their Spirits thus wander among us, finding no passage for them over the black river, till they have found a sepulchre: Come *Lyfimachus*, let us goe, let us make haste to erect them a worthy Monument in the ruines of *Babylon*; Let us appease their Ghosts by the sacrifices due to them; we know the Immolations they require, let us goe perform them, and mingle our innocent with the barbarous blood of those who have ravish'd them from us. *Lyfimachus* soberly reply'd, when you shall be in a better condition to execute your just resolutions, I will accompany you throughout, and will inform you of our affairs how they stand with *Perdiccas*, with *Roxana*, and with all the Successors of *Alexander*; In the mean while I shall with your
leave

leave employ this day in some private Devotions of my own, and in visiting a Temple of *Apollo* not many furlongs distant from hence; There I will pay some little part of what we owe to the memory of our Princesses, and there consult the pleasure of the Gods both for you and me, since our fortunes are so chain'd together, as we shall need but one Oracle between us; at my return I shall desire *Araxes* to continue the story of your adventures, and I shall also acquaint you with mine, and with many particulars of your own that certainly you your self are ignorant of; and shew you what share I have in them, and that our Interests are now so conjoyn'd as they must be for ever inseparable. I should be raviht with joy, replied the Prince, to have such a Companion as you, if my fortune were better; but being such as you see, I cannot but be much afflicted for your sake, that our misfortunes are so equall and involv'd: I shall earnestly expect your return, and since you will have it so, the return also of my health to this miserable body, that I may be able to second you in our just designs; But what answer soever you receive from the Gods, I am sure I am resolv'd not to continue long a life, which I cannot enjoy without horroure, nor prolong without shame. I have no more love for life replied *Lyſimachus*, than you have; and if I pay this duty to the Gods at this time, it is to obtain of them the means of our revenge, and to acquit my self towards them of what I owe their Deities according to the precepts of that true Philosophy which I have bin taught by the venerable *Calist-*

ibenes

ibenes. After some other discourses *Lyfimachus* took leave of *Oroondates*; and went from the house, accompanied onely by his Squire and by *Philemons* Sonne, who was to be their guide. They took the way of the Temple that *Lyfimachus* intended to visit, which being near, and they going at a good rate, they arrived at the gate of it within lesse than an houre. It was against the ordinary Custome within the Dominions of the Kings of *Persia* to build such Temples; In all other Provinces the Sacrifices were perform'd in open ayr, and on the tops of Mountaines; but by some particular Devotion, *Artaxerxes*, *Darius* his Predecessor, had erected this some forty or fifty furlongs from *Babylon*, and some five or six from *Euphrates*; he had also taken care to enrich it with many sumptuous presents; and the Oracles which were then pronounc'd, soon made it famous through all *Asia*; The forme of it was a Pentagone, and the frontispeece did discover it selfe in perspective through a long walk of goodly trees, which ended at the high way upon *Euphrates* side; the porch was marvellously high, and embelish'd with a great number of figures, especially with two Pillars of an excessive height, upon the tops of which *Apollo* and the Goddesse his Sister were plac'd in their Chariots; the gates were of Cedar, rais'd upon five or six halfe-paces of white marble, the purest that ever came from *Paros*; All the Temple was pav'd with it, and the Walls adorn'd and enrich'd with pictures of the most famous Actions of the God; his birth in the floating Island; the punishment of the Clownes turn'd into frogs; his victory over the Serpent

Serpent *Python*; the Metamorphosis of *Daphne*, whom the God did yet seeme passionately to embrace, as insensible as she was; the death of *Coronis*; the change of the fatall Raven; the loves of *Clytie*, and of the daughter of *Orchamus*, who halfe buried implor'd the assistance of the God that lov'd her; the face of the lovely *Hyacinthus* and of the poor *Cyparissus*; In fine, what ever the poets had sung most memorable of that God, was there painted by an exquisite hand, and set in borders extremely rich and curious; the accessse to the Temple was hindr'd by a Balister of brasse, which reacht up to the very vault of the roof, the form was round, and the God rais'd on the top of it in the shape of a man, onely his head with a glory of beames about it, so radiant with gold and gemmes, as hardly could the eye endure the lustre of it. Behind the Altar was that sacred Cave, whence the Priests did draw that divine fury by which they pronounced the Oracles; but the approaches of that were not permitted to any but the Priests who had a way to themselves through a subterranean vault, that led them from their own Apartments to the Altar.

Lyfimaebus arriv'd at the great walk at the same time that a stranger was newly alighted there, and was walking before the gate of the Temple, expecting the hour of its opening; He was scarce from his horse, when he found himself accosted and saluted by him with great courtesie; and although he had no minde to be known, yet he would not be uncivill, but seeing the other put up the beaver of his helmet, he discover'd his face al-

fo

so, and return'd him his salutation with the like civility; over and above that which became him to doe in courtesie, he was in a manner forc'd to it by the excellent presence of the stranger, whom when he had considered more narrowly, he found in his stature, fashion, and countenance, to carry so much greatnesse, beauty and majesty, as although he had bin bred up near the great *Alexander* from whose Court had issued so many Kings, he thought he had never observ'd any person to equall him, yet withall he thought that he had seen in some face or other aires much resembling him; but he dwelt little upon that thought, pursuing onely in his respects to him the powerfull motions of a secret Inclination. The stranger also who observ'd in his Countenance somewhat so extremely beautifull, noble and martiall, consider'd him with admiration, and spake unto him in the Persian language with so gentle and obliging an accent, that *Lyfimachus* did no longer hear him, nor look upon him but as person almost miraculous. I believe Sir, said the Stranger, that we are met here upon the same design; But I hope in the Gods you are not led hither by any such ill fortune as mine. The goodnesse which you expresse to me, replied *Lyfimachus*, and the esteem which hath already possess'd me towards a person of so excellent an appearance makes me beseech of the Gods in your behalf a fortune far differing from mine. Would to Heaven, replied the stranger with a deep sigh, that I could but equall you in those noble qualities which I am confident you possess, as I am certain I exceed both you and all men living

in

in misfortune. If to have no hopes left but in the grave, replyed *Lyfimachus*, to have lost by a cruell and extraordinary death not onely the sole thing I lov'd, but the onely thing I liv'd for, be a condition that can suffer an equall in misfortune, I confesse another man may also be transcendently miserable; but if he (whosoever he be to whom misfortunes of this nature have happened) have not had a passion proportionable to mine, and for a person as excellent as her whom I lament, he must, I say, who ever he be, yield unto me the precedence in misery, which I bear away whether I will or no, from all the rest of the world. The Gods comfort you replyed the stranger, since I finde the sense of my sufferings redoubled by the knowledge of yours, and that I am so farre from the humour of those men, who finde a mitigation in their pain, by the encounter of others alike miserable; for what concerns my self (who have little hopes left me but in death, and who am throughly pierc'd at this time with misfortunes of the same nature with yours, and who have long suffered many others, under the burden of which I had certainly succumb'd but for a particular assistance of heaven) I shall expect the will of that with the same heart wherewith I have supported a thousand losses, the least of which ought to have sent me to my grave. This courageous resignation of your self to heaven, added *Lyfimachus*, is a clear testimony of your great vertue, and doth in a manner accuse those Gods of cruelty and injustice to whom you do so entirely submit; I trust they will pardon me
the

the liberty of this discourse, which proceeds from no irreverence to them, nor impiety of my humour; but if I may continue without offending them (pursued he, taking their walk under the trees) and if it be allowed us to argue of those things which are above us, me thinks those afflictions wherewith you have been persecuted, should rather have been imploy'd to the punishment of paricides, and other crimes which the ambition and other irregular passions of men have made the monsters of former times, and of these also, commit; and yet we see them prosper, and arrive to grey hairs, with as few crosse accidents as any; to trouble the calme of their prosperity; we have seen *Ochus* one of *Darius* his Predecessors imbrued in the blood of fifty of his own Brothers, his Father *Artaxerxes* murderer of his Father, and of his eldest Child; and many other Princes; who upon reasons of State have abstained from no kinde of Impiety, reign, and live peaceably even to their hundredth year, without any considerable trouble or misfortune; and we see the poor *Darius*, a good and gallant Prince, and all his illustrious Family, the mirrour of vertue, constancy, and generosity, persecuted by Heaven, and by Fortune, yeeld up the Ghost by such strange and cruell waies as seem even to lay an imputation upon that divine Providence; we have seen an *Alexander*, whom all the world sufficiently knows, lose his life in the flower of his age, and as it were in the birth of his greatnes, and with those a great number of other excellent persons, who seem'd sent into this world, onely to serve for pastime to Fortunes inconstancies, or rather

rather for the aime and mark of her persecutions. The Stranger having sadly listned to him, and wip'd away some tears which this Discourse had forc'd from his eyes, replyed unto him with great moderation; It is very true that I have often observ'd what you now say, and sometimes in the diversity which I have seen of things, I have dwelt long upon the same considerations. I have known indeed many of the viciousst persons lead a long life with sweetnesse and contentment, enough, at least in appearance; and on the other side, many virtuous persons rigorously used by Fortune, and abandon'd to all kind of disasters; but this notwithstanding hath not made me accuse the Gods of Injustice, nor of defect in their providence towards mankind; and if you allow me to expresse unto you my thoughts upon this occasion, I shall tell you that I have alwaies beleev'd that there were as many differing kinds of happinesse, as there were differing dispositions of mind; so the diversity of minds and inclinations I take to be that which begets the difference in happinesse; by which means we may often be deceiv'd in esteeming one man happy who possesses great Treasures, whereas it may be he contemnes them, having fixt his desire upon the possession of the person he loves; and another we may as erroneously conceit fortunate, by enjoying a Mistresse whom perhaps he would gladly abandon for those Treasures which are denyed him. In this manner we may be much abus'd in the opinions we take of the happinesse of vicious men, who though they may sometimes also obtain that felicity which con-

sists in the satisfaction of the minde, yet their desires being satiated, I suppose the remorse of their guilty Conscience, may raise such a Warre within them unknown to us, as troubling their quiet by eternall Alarmes, may quite destroy the taste of that sweetnesse which they promise themselves either in the possession of things desired, or in the avoyding of such things as they fear'd or hated. Do you think it likely that *Ocyrus* could relish the pleasures of his Victory over the Armenians, and the tranquillity of his Dominions which he had procur'd by such horrid Murthers, when he set before his eyes the Ghosts of so many Brothers by whose blood he had cimented that greatnesse, which he enjoyed so many years in a seeming quietnesse? And do you think that *Artaxerxes* must not needs be accompanied with a detestation of that life which he was forc'd to secure by sacrificing the Sonne whom he so dearly loved? doubtlesse if you make a right reflexion on the matter, you will conclude rather, that the inward torments which those persons, happy in appearance, feele, doe outweigh the delight of those things which we esteem their pleasures; but though I should admit that those Paricides, those Monsters, have enjoyed true happinesse, and that possessing the objects of their passion, they have not been tormented neither with ambition, with love, nor with remorse of Conscience, ought we not to believe (rather than accuse the Gods) that they have preserv'd them so many years, as instruments of their justice, and scourges whereby to punish others as criminall and wicked as themselves?

selves? Who knows whether they gave *Oebus* so long a life for his own happiness sake, or for the curse of his Brothers; and whether it were not less out of their kindness to him, that they preserv'd him for the others ruin, than out of their hatred to them whose Inclinations, perhaps, were worse than his? Ought we not also to believe that they permitted *Alexander* to live to his hundredth year, as their instrument in the punishment of his Sonne, whose wickedness was such as to attempt his Fathers life? This is my opinion of what concerns the prosperity of the wicked; as for the adversities of good men, although the most virtuous persons are often much afflicted by them, yet we think there is no concluding from thence any thing to the prejudice of the divine Providence; possibly those who seem most innocent to us, may not appear so to the Gods, whose judgements are farre differing from ours; and who knows but they are punished by evils visible to us, for crimes which are onely visible to them? if it be true, that they are exempt from vice, then certainly they are so visited for the greater proof of their virtue, and to make that shine forth more gloriously, heightened in its lustre by those clouds of affliction. The examples which you have alleged — Here the Stranger stopt abruptly, and endeavouring to continue his discourse, he appeared so overcome on the sudden with some such grievous remembrance, as would not suffer him to go on. *Lysimachus* who had listned unto him with great attention, and who highly admired his excellent grace both in his discourse

and demcanour, was about to have renewed their conversation, had not the opening of the Temple gates at the instant, giving them free liberty to enter, summon'd them from it to performe their devotions. They went in both together, and minding very little the Pictures or other beauties of the Temple, they kneeled down at the Ballister, and having prayed a while in a low voice, the Stranger raising his, and addressing himself to the God unto whom the Temple was dedicated, made this Prayer aloud unto him.

Powerfull Divinity, who givest not onely light to mankind, but being to all things ; Independent Being, on whom all beings depend, if the Prayers of so miserable a creature may yet be heard, behold, bright Father of the day, the most unfortunate of men, prostrate at the foot of thy Altar, and who abandoning all hopes of humane succour or consolation, expects neither, but from thy divine goodnesse. Great God, thou knowest my afflictions, thou knowest my losses, and in what a tempestuous Sea I have been tost these many yeares ; if thy Justice be yet satisfied by so many losses ; and if after thou hast taken so much from me, thou dost but yet preserve in this world the thing which I seek with so much care ; light me, O glorious Fountain of light, and guide my uncertain feet in the steps of what I have lost ; I quit all the rest without repining ; but great God, restore me what I love, restore me what I live for, or at least restore me the hopes which have so long abandoned me.

The Stranger concluded thus, & *Lyfimachus* who had hearkned to his prayer with great intentivenesse, and with as great compassion for his sufferings

of CASSANDRA. 165

ings as the memory of his own could allow him, seeing that he had ended, and that the Priest being retired behind the Altar waited the God's Answer at the mouth of the sacred Cave, after he had humbly prostrated himselfe, made also this Prayer.

Fountain of all Glory, Eye that discoverest all things, and by whom all things subsist, Two miserable Suppliants of thine, who have but one Destiny, prostrate themselves at thy Altar, rather to pay thee their duty, than to implore thy Succour, or to beg a change of their fortunes, in which all hopes have abandon'd them, but that of death alone; they have lost all that they could lose, in all that they desired to preserve; and can hope for no assistance from thee, unlesse thou dost againe put in practise in their favour, that vertue which thou didst once communicate to thy Sonne, and if thou dost not restore life to those illustrious persons, to whom theirs were wholly dedicated, all that we beg is, that thou wouldst assist us in a most just revenge, and in that designe we have to pay what we owe unto the departed soules of those whom we loved so perfectly.

Lysimachus ended these words with another low humiliation to the ground, and soon after the Priest returned to the Altar so chang'd, as hardly was he to be known, he appear'd much taller than ordinary, his eyes wildly rquing, and transported with the divine fury which posselt him, he pronounced these words in a dreadfull voice,

Oracle.

I Et the Dead expect from the Living their Duties, and let the Living hope for the assistance of the Dead; The Dead shall raise the Fortunes of the Living, and the Living shall establish the Tranquillity of the Dead: In the meane while my will is, that the Living live, and that the Dead doe rest, and that both the Dead and the Living expect my pleasure upon the Bankes of Euphrates.

After the Priest had pronounced these words, he came back by little and little to his ordinary state, and though at the earnest entreaty of *Lysimachus* and the Stranger, he again approached the holy Cave, the Gods would return no other Answer, but left them both uncertain of the sense of the Oracle, and to which of them it was directed; each of them took it to himself, but being able to comprehend nothing of it, they resolved to expect the event, without labouring to inform themselves further; and having performed some little sacrifices usual in such occasions, they took leave of the Priest, and left the Temple, as ignorant of their Destiny as before.

If the affairs of *Lyfimachus*, and of the Stranger, or rather the sad condition of them both, could have suffer'd them to enjoy one anothers Company, they would never have parted, having conceived such an affection and value for one another, as that they could not think of a separation without much trouble, but being forced to differing courses by most powerfull Considerations, they betook themselves to their horses, and to their severall waies; The Stranger as his occasions directed him, and *Lyfimachus* towards the house of *Polemoni*; where he had left *Oroondates*; he performed that short Journey without speaking one word, seeming so buried in cogitations, as the two that accompanied him durst not presume to interrupt him in them. When he was within two or three hundred paces of the house, he saw on his right hand near the river side a grove of Sherwood, so desert and solitary, that he thought it a most proper place wherein to passe some houres of his sadnesse, and to entertaine his mortall Indignations, and to this intent he presently alighted, and commanding his Squire to lead home his horse, he went into the wood afoot and alone; chusing his walk in the most melancholy parts, and probably the most removed from any frequentation of men; there it was that he revolved in himself a hundred times the words of the Oracle, and having as often nicely examin'd them, he comprehended them so little as he quite cast off the care of further understanding them. In this solitude where there was no body to censure him of weaknesse, he gave his teares their free course, and utter'd Discourses

and lamentations of so sad anature, as were capable of moving pitty even in the woods themselves; and reflecting upon the vision which he had seen that morning, he began to conjure the spirit of his Princeesse once more to appeare before him, and this with the most ardent Prayers, and with the most moving ejaculations that his passion could dictate; Divine *Parisatis*, would he say, walking with slow and heavy steps, and his armes crost on his breast, if divine as you are, you have already vouchsafed to comfort your miserable Creature by a sight of you, and to lay aside that glory wherewith you are environ'd, to accommodate your self to the weaknesse of his sight, refuse him not the same grace once more, since he is still the same, and now in so solitary a place, as may give you liberty to honour him with those Commands which he expects from you. In such and the like Discourses he past some time, continuing his walk under the trees, till coming to a great Oake, he observ'd some words engraven in the barke of it, and considering them more attentively he found them almost all mark'd with the same Characters; he look'd upon them without designe, and in those that were next him, he read the names of *Cassandra* and *Eurydice* in great Lettes carv'd in the bark in severall places. After this lying down at the foot of that great Oake, he cast his eyes upon a writing that descended almost to the ground, wherein he read distinctly these words: *Whoever thou art whom either bazard or designe shall bring into this solitary place, lament the misfortunes of the desolate Cassandra; here it is that unhappy she weepes, and must*

must weep the rest of her dayes, both for what she hath lost by her own fault, and what she hath lost by the anger of the Gods; by her teares she will deplore the losse of what the Gods have taken from her, and by her teares she will expresse even to those Gods, and to the memory of what was so dear to her, her repentance of her crime; yet she lov'd what she ought to love, and doth still love what is not; & will preserve even to her Sepulchre, both her first and last affections pure and inviolable. *Lyfimachus* was extremely toucht with compassion at the reading of these words, and lifting up his eyes to Heaven, Great Gods, said he, I see 'tis not on me alone that your wrath is pour'd, the number of the miserable, me thinks is as great as the number of men! and going a little forward, he saw a little rock upon the side of a purling little brook cover'd with the like Characters, and the names of *Cassandra* and *Euridice* enterwoven there in a hundred fashions, and under them these words engrav'd, as it seem'd by the same hand that the former; Labour not in vain, O charitable *Euridice*, to sweeten my miseries by your consolation; what I lov'd, and what I ought to love, either are not in the world, or are not there for me; cease therefore to dispute with me a precedency, which your griefes cannot but very unjustly pretend to; although your losses are of the nature of mine, you have defended your self much better from those violences of a passion which makes mine so sensible; and alas it is but the participation of my unhappinesse that makes up the greatest part of yours. *Lyfimachus* his own afflictions could not hinder him from taking some part in those of the unknown *Cassandra*; but he was much more mov'd with them, when sitting down

down by that little current side, he had read at the foot of the rock these words of the same writing; *Dear Reliques of what I have so dearly lov'd, whether it be so that you are plac'd among the Gods, or that you wander yet amongst men, since this heart that was open to you whilst it could or ought to be so, gives you yet an admission which can never be allowed to any other, value the tears wherewith I solemnize your memory, and content your self with the last duties which I pay to you, as also to the ashes and memory of what was the best part of me; the remembrance of all my other losses has no share in my afflictions; and as in you all my felicities were bounded, so the sole lesso of you hath establish'd a sorrow in my soul as eternall as it self.* Lysimachus could not make an end of these words without letting tears fall afresh from his eyes, and these representations of anothers misfortunes, sharpening the remembrance of his own, afflicted him so mortally as made him leane against the rock almost depriv'd of sense; when he was come to himself, he pull'd off his helmet, and laid himself all along upon the grasse near the water side, which running among the pebbles made there a pleasing murmur; where his eyes having shed a boundance of teares, were at length closed by a slumber, which what with wearinesse and preceding watches stole gently upon his body (oppress'd with the passions of the minde) that rest and quiet of which it seem'd before incapable, and indeed made amends for his former want of it, by so long a sleep, as it was far in night before he waked; nor probably would he then, but for the noise of some persons talking near him. At his first
a wakin g

awaking he wondred to finde himself in that obscurity, notwithstanding casting up his eyes he perceiv'd through the boughes which kept the most of it from him, a divine light, by the help of which he hop'd to finde the way to *Polemon's* house, not doubting but his people would be in much trouble for his stay; but just as he was going that way, he heard the same voice which had interrupted his sleep; and though he had little room in his mind for any thoughts but of death, yet, either some reliques of curiosity, or a particular fate made him desirous to know what might be the matter of those persons conversation, in such a place as that, and at such an hour of the night; the parties discoursing were fate very near him, enjoying the sweet freshnesse of the place, and entertain'd one another at full liberty without any apprehension that they could be there overheard; *Lysimachus* listning to them, heard one of them say, O but *Astages* must you not needs think me the wickedest of men, if I could follow counsell so pernicious? I will believe that your affliction to me transports you to give them, but withall consider who I am, and against whom you advise me; such an action, besides that it would be infamous and horrible in the memory of man-kind, would draw upon me the vengeance of the Gods, and would never leave a moments quiet to my afflicted Conscience. Those who are perfectly in love, replyed the other, doe little trouble themselves with such nice considerations; and though in other cases a tendernesse of conscience be commendable, yet in enterprises of this nature,
it

it cannot passe for other than weaknesse; a violent passion is able to execute any thing, and whoever is wholly posselt of that, can commit no crime unpardonable; shut your eyes (Sir) to scruples destructive to your designe, and call not by the name of vertue, a faint-hearted and unseasonable patience. But it is possible, replied the first, that those who love perfectly can ever allow themselves to do actions displeasing to her they love? and can you ever have lov'd, that give me advices so contrary to the maximes of all those who pretend to any perfection in that passion? I have lov'd perfectly answer'd *Asthyages*, but not like you speculative lovers, who content themselves with a glance of an eye, or a sigh, in reward of their passion, and idolatrize a face ten years together without pretending to any other fruit of their adoration, but sight forsooth and conversation; My love as it is more reall, so requires it favours more solid and substantiall, and is not sed with such Chymera's as nourish and satisfie the imaginations of such hollow and melancholy Lovers. Will you have me distinguish in the Case? know then that among those who pretend to love, some love onely (or rather simply) for the object sake beloved, and others for their own, the first have no other end but the perfection of that object, and found their happinesse in their passion onely, and love, or believe they love a beauty, not for a return sake from her that possesses it, but because they judge her lovely, that is love-worthy; and this rank of men Sir I take to abound in love, but to want in common sense; the latter (to whose maximes

I have ever most faithfully adher'd) pursue indeed a reall good, that is their own Contentment, as becomes men of reason, and who know how to follow the sweetest instincts of nature; they love upon the hopes that they shall be equally lov'd againe, and that they shall possess in the thing beloved, those joyes of which they had a taste in the imagination, before they embark'd themselves in a passion; these are wiser than to engage so deeply, as not to preserve still a dependance of their loves upon their hopes. But let us leave both the one and the other to their opinions, and let us trouble our selves no further than with what concerns your self; you are afraid to displease her you love by a little sweet violence; had you that consideration when you ravish'd her from her friends? or doe you think you offended her lesse by that Action, than you are likely to doe by this, which will make her entirely yours? *O Agyages*, interrupted the other, it is that thought that makes me tremble; and consider I beseech you that my Princeesse is not onely Daughter to one of the greatest Kings in the world, but that she is Daughter to my own Sovereign, and that the attempt you propose were worthy of a thousand chunder-bolts; You should have had these reflexions, replied *Agyages*, before you brought things to that passe; but in the present State of your affaires, your condition cannot impair; and having no hope to lose which you have not lost already, you shall procure your own satisfaction in the enjoyment of that good for which you have abandon'd all others; But when all this is done,

replied

replied the first, what pleasure can one taste in the possession by force of that thing wherein the good will produces all the delight? And with what satisfaction can one embrace a body, where the mindes consent is wanting? Those that love for their own sakes, replied *Astyages*, know none of these distinctions, and favours are still favours to them, in what way soever obtain'd. Think on it then, Sir, in time (since it is high time, and that all things are so favourable to you in this place) make use of your power here; consider but how unhappy, and how contemptible you would be to your self, should you let slip out of your hands, by not making use of opportunity, such a prey as you can never recover? I dare promise you that by this action you shall be possessor of her body and minde both together; all that's past shall vanish from her memory, and she will grow to be that unto you for Duty and her own sake, which she would not be for yours, and by inclination; at these words he paus'd, and seeing that the other answer'd him not, he thus continued; Set before your eyes, Sir, the little hopes you have of ever possessing her by any other means; remember so many prayers and tears employ'd in vain; be asham'd of your past submissions, and blush to have subjected your self to one whose insolent disdains make her almost unworthy of your affection; behave your self no more towards her as a slave, but as a master; and instead of supplicating as you have done hitherto, tell her boldly you will have it so; and if she resist after that knowledge of your will, serve your

yourself without fear of that power which Heaven hath put into your hands, and misdoubt not the anger of the Gods for a fault of which they have so often made themselves your example. The other having hearkned to, and consider'd a pretty while these discourses, starting upon the suddain as out of a deep sleep, *Asthyages*, said he, you have overcome, your reasons are beyond my resistance; and what difficulty soever I make in it, I find myself so sweetly carryed to a consent to that which so pleasingly flatters me, that I must yeeld; I will follow your counsell, and if my former wayes (which I will yet try again a while) prove still unsuccessefull, I will have recourse to yours, and at all events lay the blame upon you of that fault which I should not have committed but by your perswasions. Now thanked be the Gods, replied *Asthyages*, that give you at length resentments worthy of your self; follow, Sir, follow boldly my counsell, cast all the fault on me, and all the trouble that you can apprehend by it; But Sir, (continued he, having been a while silent) we may chance stay here too long, and the Moon that begins to rise may discover us unto those high waies with which I am too well acquainted; let us leave the wood, and return to those unto whom our long stay may have given some Alarms. Having said this, they rise, and *Lyfimachus*, who judged they did so, both by their discourse, and by the noise they made at their going, rose also; he understood by the conclusion of their discourse the ill design they had; and though his own affliction was sufficient to have kept him from in-

interposing in what concern'd others, yet the
horror which he had for such foul actions, made
him resolve to give their ill Intentions all the
hindrance that possibly he could; the night being
reasonable clear he followed them a good while
within sight or hearing of them; but at length
how carefull soever he were, he lost them among
the trees, and laboured a good while to recover
them, but at length having in vain travers'd most
part of the Wood, he found himselfe upon the
River side, and saw before him both the great
Highway to *Babylon*, and the Path that led to *Po-*
lemon's house; in which he had not gone above
forty or fifty paces, but he met some of his ser-
vants that were come out to seek him, whom he
eas'd of their trouble, and return'd with them,
and with *Polemon* their guide, to the house which
was hard by. Although it were very late when
he arriv'd there, he would neither goe to bed, nor
sup till he had seen *Oroondates* (*Araxis* having told
him that he was awake, and would be glad to see
him, having been some houres in great trouble for
him) When he was in his Chamber, and that
comming to his bed-side they had embrac'd one
another; Well *Lyfimachus*, sayd *Oroondates*, what
doe the Gods determine of us? They have exprest
themselves so ill, replyed *Lyfimachus*, that 'tis very
hard to comprehend their will. I know not
whether you will be a better Interpreter than I, and
be able to dive into the sense of the obscurest of O-
racles; and here having related unto him his whole
journey, and the encounter of that Stranger, he told
him the very words of the Oracle, which he had
carefully

carefully retain'd. *Oroondates* having tost up and down in his thoughts what explication might be given them, after a whiles meditation, I know not, said he, what obscurity you finde in them, but to my understanding the Gods never discover'd their wills more openly, nor more intelligibly.

Let the Dead, sayes the God, expect the Duties of the Living. These words are plain of themselves; doubtlesse those excellent Soules expect from us the last duties, and the God reproaches us with the delay. *And let the Living hope for the assistance of the Dead.* There is no doubt but that in what we are to doe for the satisfaction of those blessed Spirits, their assistance will be necessary; And if we finde our selves weak against so powerfull Enemies, the remembrance of them will doubtlesse redouble our forces: this assistance they offer us, and this is certainly the cause of this mornings visions; it is by this assistance that the Dead shall raise the fortunes of the Living, and that the Living shall establish the tranquillity of the Dead. All our fortune hence forwards consists in the death of those we prosecute, and in the revenge we hope for; by this revenge, and by sepulchrell duties, we shall establish the quiet of those poor Souls who doe yet wander, whilst their bodies want those rights. *In the mean while (saies the Oracle) my will is, that the Living live, that the Dead doe rest, and that both the Living and the Dead expect my pleasure upon the Banks of Euphrates.* I would I found no more impossibility in the execution of these commands, than I finde difficultie in their explication; for if the Gods mean

mean that I shall live, they must restore me my Princeſſe; the dead may reſoſe and expect their pleaſures upon the banks of *Euphrates*, or of *Cocytus*, if they pleaſe; and ſee, dear *Lyſimachus*, how theſe poor ſouls obey them, and how divested of their bodies, they dare not forſake this place, till they have payd the Divinity thoſe Duties which are exacted from them. *Lyſimachus* confirm'd him in this thought, and after ſome further diſcourſe upon it, he acquainted him with his ſeverall encounters in the Wood; he told him a great part of the words engrav'd in the Trees, and on the Rock under the name of *Cassandra*, and afterwards the conference which he had over-heard of thoſe two perſons whoſe wicked deſign he could not prevent: they both deteſted the villany, and *Lyſimachus* ſeeing it late, gave *Oroondates* the Good night, and after ſupper retiring to his chamber, he paſt that night after his uſuall manner.

The next day *Araxes* came to give him the Good morrow, and *Lyſimachus* having enquir'd of his Maſter's health, he was ſo ill, ſaid he, that I durſt not deſire him to continue the relation which you had begun, ſince ſo long a diſcourſe might be hurtfull to him; But if you have ſtill the ſame kindneſſe, I ſhall deſire you to purſue the ſtory of a life which is dearer and more conſiderable to me than mine own. *Araxes* without more entreaty, ſitting down in a chair by his bed-ſide, and having thought a while on what he had to ſay, reſumed his former diſcourſe in this manner.

CONTINUATION OF
THE HISTORY OF
OROONDATES
AND STATYRA.

IF you have been moved with the beginning of my discourse, you will be yet much more with what remains. We are now launching into open Sea, and you will think by the rest of it, that those little misfortunes, comparatively with what my Prince hath been since assayed, were but as Lightnings to the Thunder-bolts that threatned him, and but as mists the forerunners of his violent tempests; your knowledge of divers things in this story will excuse me from the trouble of many things which otherwise I must have enlarged upon, which now I shall onely touch, and be particular in those alone which are unknown to you. As soon as my Prince had understood the death of *Memnon*, and (over and above the ill news which I told you) what haste the Kings made to meet one another, and to decide by a second Battell the Empire of *Asia*, he was strangely troubled with the apprehension of not comming time-enough to that memorable day, & he express'd his impatience by pressing his Horses to such extreme great Journeyes, as he kill'd them in few dayes; but having bought others, and others after they had been kill'd in like manner, we made such

expedition, riding both night and day, as we overtook the Troups of *Darius*, the very evening before that bloody Battell of *Iffus*. My Master resolved not to make himself known till after the Fight, hoping in it to render some such considerable service to *Darius*, as should much endear him in his discovery. We arrived at a great Plain near the River *Pindarus*, time-enough to see the Army passe in Battalia; and because the order of its march appeared to me very extraordinary and magnificent, I observed it carefully, and shall in short describe it to you, if you have not heard it already from some other hand. The Army of *Darius* was composed of most of the severall Nations under his obedience, at least of all those that were not very remote; for some of them, as the *Atrochians*, the *Logdians*, and the *Indians*, were not summon'd, in regard of the haste which the King made to draw this Army together, the occasion so pressing him; of naturall *Persians* there were 30000 Horse, and 70000 Foot, goodly bodies of men, proudly mounted, and richly armed; the *Medians* brought 10000 Horse, and 50000 Foot; the *Bactrians* 2000 Horse armed with Battle-Axes, and light little Bucklers, and 10000 Foot; the *Armenians* 40000 Foot, with 7000 *Hircanian* Horse, the best of the Army; the *Dewises*, a barbarous people subjects to the King of *Persia*, onely 2000 Horse, and 40000 Foot, the greatest part of which carried Pikes and Javelins of wood, whose points were hardned in the fire, for want of Iron in their Country; from near the *Caspian* Sea, and other Provinces of *Asia* were sent

sent four or 5000 Horse, and 10000 Foot, besides some other Troups drawn from divers other Nations his subjects; the King had also in pay with him at that time 30000 Grecians, young and valiant, on whom above all others he relyed; of these was the Army compos'd, and its order in marching was thus; before all the Troups marcht the sacred Fire, in great Veneration among the Persians, carryed upon Altars of silver, followed by 365 Mages, who sung Hymnes, and by as many young men in Purple Robes, this was the number ordained according to the daies of the year, by an ancient Ceremony of the Persians; these Altars were followed by the Chariot of *Jupiter*, drawn by twelve white Horses, governed by men in white Robes, and carrying Switches of Gold in their hands. This Chariot was followed by the goodliest Horse that could be found, which was called the Horse of the Sunne, and was led in hand by men in the same equipage; after these marcht the Chariot of *Armes* belonging to the Kings person, all shining with Gold and Jewels, more for state and ornament than use. The Cavalry of all those Nations, differing in Arms, Customs, and Language, marcht after these in severall Squadrons, of which I shall not trouble you at this present, neither with their numbers, nor the names of their Commanders. I shall onely tell you that the first were those which the Persians call the Immortall Troups, compos'd of ten thousand selected men, clad with Cassacks embroidered with Gold, cover'd with Arms all gilt, and even loaden with great Chaines about
 N 3 their

their necks of precious stones, with which they did adorn themselves for the combat, as if they were to assist at some triumph of Joy; at a convenient distance from them, appear'd the *Doripbori*, 15000 in number, otherwise call'd the Kings Kinsmen, men properer to adorn than to defend the Camp, and whom the gorgiousnesse of their habit, and curiosity of their Arms, rendred almost of no defence. My Prince seeing them thus drist like Women, look'd upon them with contempt, and soon turned away his eyes to fix them upon *Darius*, who past by elevated on a lofty Chariot, full of Pomp and Majesty; it was so radiant with Gold and Gems, that the eye could not suffer the brightnesse of it without dazeling; the borders of it were enricht with many inboist Images of the Gods, of which the matter was massive Gold, and the form most rare and excellent; his seat was cover'd with an Eagle of the same metall, which spreading its wings was a shelter to his person against the Rain and Sun burning, and all other incommodities of the weather; his Caskock was of Purple, over-wrought with little Suns of Gold; his Mantling trayling to the ground, was also of a light Golden-Tissue, joyned before by two Buckles of Gold in the form of Sparrow-Hawkes, which seem'd in fighting to have fastned themselves to one another by the beak; he wore at a most rich Girdle a bowed Cimeter, whose Scabbard was all made of a precious stone; his Head-tyre, which the Persians call *Cydaris*, was made of Azure and white Linnen; but the stuffe was little seen, it was so thick cover'd with Diamonds

monds and Pyropuses; the Chariot was environ'd with two hundred of the Principall Nobility of *Persia* that were next the Crown, or of the most illustrious Houses of the Kingdom, who excusing themselves from all charges in regard of their youth, were design'd to fight alwaies near the King's person; their Arms were very rich, and their lavelings garnisht with gold; these were followed by ten thousand Pike-men of the King's guard, whose pikes were also garnisht with silver, and by four hundred led horses for the King's own saddle, and after these the rest of the Infantry in their order; a furlong after them was to be seen the Queen *Syfigambis* in her Chariot, the Queen *Statyra* her Daughter-in-law upon hers, and the two Princesses upon theirs, accompanied by forty or fifty Chariots more, fill'd with the Ladies of honour, and other principall persons of that sex that followed the Army; the rest of their Train was mounted upon horses, and other kindes of ordinary Chariots, in which usually went the Governours and Preceptors of the King's Children, and the Eunuches of the household, who were not so despicable among the Persians as they are among other Nations; after these the Kings treasure was carried upon six hundred Mules and 300 Camells guarded by 15000 Archers, and some Squadrons of horse; behinde all there followed abundance of women such as accompanied their Husbands or their Sonnes in the Warres, and an infinite number of Servants; and all the sumptuous baggage wherewith within few dayes after you enricht your selves. I could not observe the last things that past with

much attention; being oblig'd to follow my Master, who did not vouchsafe, his Princess being once past, to consider any thing else; he followed her with his eye, till he saw her alight from her Chariot, and with the *Queenes* go into a rich Pavillion already set up for them, and which was very remarkable to the whole Army, by a Sunne made with wonderfull Art, enchac'd in Chrystall, and erected on the top of it. Although my Prince had much trouble to keep his resolution of concealing himself any longer from her for whom alone he preserv'd his life, yet having design'd to make himself once more eminently considerable to *Darius* before his Discovery, he persisted with much adoe in his determination of expecting the issue of the Battell; and seeing the night come on, that he might be further from the King, and from those who were likeliest to know him, he chose to lodge that night in the Athenians Quarter, whom their Captain *Patro* had recruited, since that fatall night in which they were defeated by my Prince, being upon the guard of *Darius* his Tents. *Oroondates* discover'd himself to none but *Patro*, and took of him a horse fit for his turn; but a little after, we were fain to decamp in the night, the poor *Darius* ill counsell'd, and impatient for a victory which he believed certain, fearing lest *Alexander* should escape, would needs advance, and thereby engage himselfe in those narrow straights which afterwards occasion'd his losse of the Battle. My Master at the instant perceiv'd the errour, and advis'd *Patro* of the disadvantages upon which he put himself

self in that place ; for indeed if in that large plain which he forsook , he had ranged those infinite numbers of men and horses , of which that Army was compos'd, and that he had there expected you in good order, without precipitating himself as he did, between the Sea, the mountaines, and the river *Pindarus* , he might well have made use of all his forces ; whereas engaging himself as he did, upon those narrow straights and passes, you had as much advantage as he, since your men combated in front against the first of ours, without their being able to draw any seasonable succour from the troupes that followed them ; besides that the Infantry of which your Army chiefly consisted did fight in that ill ground, with much lesse incombrance than our horse, *Darius*, *Artabazus*, and *Mazeus* perceived the fault they had committed the next morning, when they saw *Alexander* so much nearer them than they expected ; they would faine have retir'd to a larger ground, but it was too late; and the Armies were so near to one another, that there was no means to avoid the encounter in that place, or to defer the destiny of so many Persians as perisht in that bloody day. I shall not tell you the particulars of a Battell in which doubtlesse you were one of the first, you know both the beginning and successe of it, I shall onely let you know that upon the very first Skirmisher, my Prince leaving the Athenians, plac'd himself among the young Persian Nobility, who fought without charge in the Army, near the person of the King, or in other places where they thought there was most danger, and consequently most honour to be wonne;

wonne; he was mounted upon the horse which he had from *Patro*, goodly and vigorous, his Coat of Armes, his plumes and top of horse haire, were of the same colour, having never worn any other since the death of *Artaxerxes*. I had the good fortune to keep near him all the day, and really saw him doe things surpassing belief. The good King *Darius* did very bravely in his own person, you know that he ventur'd to encounter even *Alexander* himself hand and hand; and that having combated a while without advantage they were sever'd by the throng of their Souldiers; but at this parting *Darius* was overthrown from his Chariot, and hemm'd in by a great number of Macedonians, who certainly had kill'd or taken him Prisoner, if he had not bin succour'd by my Master, who combating not far distant from him, and understanding from hand to hand in what danger that great King was, suddenly turned his horse furiously towards those that environ'd him, and meeting first with *Philotas*, gave him so violent a shock, as overthrew him among the horses feet, he overturn'd also *Clytus*, and making himself way where ever he charg'd, he had soon so dispers'd those about *Darius*, as he withdrew him from among them; and making me seize *Philotas* his horse. He gave him the leisure to get up upon him; he had scarcely performed this service, when *Alexander* heated and keen in his pursuit returns to the same place. My Prince knowing the danger that that great King might be likely to runne, forc'd him to retire into some of his Squadrons, and turning his face to *Alexander* he hastned to encounter that
great

great man with incomparable joy; it was the first time that ever I saw him, and if my memory serve me, his helmet and his whole Armour was of a polished steele, so bright, as that the Sun-beames striking on it, it was hard for the eye to support the rayes of it; it was enricht with precious stones, and he had on a Coat of Armes richly embroder'd; his helmet was cover'd with a white plume of feathers, with a horse-taile in the midst of it as white as snow, and which descended to the crouper of *Bucephalus*. That great Prince disdain'd not such an Enemy as my Master; and having heard that it was he who had overthrown *Clytus* and *Pbilotas*, and sav'd *Darius* from the Macedonians, he made all about him give way to that encounter; their shock was prodigious, and both their horses having met in full fury, *Bucephalus* had the advantage of my Master's, and bore him down to the ground with his haunches; but my Prince raising him with the spurres, and pressing him up fiercely to the right side of *Alexander*, struck him thorough the thigh with his Javelin, and turning againe quick upon him with his sword, cut the laces of his helmet, and discover'd him bare-fac'd to all about him. Here it was indeed that your great King was in extreme hazard, but he was suddenly succour'd by those near him, who altogether charg'd *Oroondates* and his Company. Here *Lysimachus* interrupting *Araxes*, O God, said he, what doe I here? was that Knight in black armes who hurt *Alexander*, and did such wonders that day, was he indeed your Prince? It was he, replied *Araxes*; Then am I witnesse, added *Lysimachus*, of

a great part of his Actions; I was the neareſt to *Alexander* when he received his hurt, and one of the firſt that oppos'd his fury, and felt my ſhare of his terrible arme; he overthrew alſo *Neoptolemus* and *Craterus* before us, and I muſt needs tell you, that in truth *Ptolomy*, *Seleucus*, and my ſelf, were ſo much in love with his vertue, that we would not ſuffer our men to purſue him with that earneſtneſſe, which doubtleſſe they would have done if we had not hinder'd them. The King who without knowing who he was, highly exalted his bravery, ſeem'd very well pleas'd with this action of ours, and did never ſpeak of him, but as of a prodigy, or as one ſent from the Gods to protect the Perſians; My Prince replyed *Araxes*, has other obligations to you, of which you your ſelf are ignorant, which muſt needs cement a friendſhip between you as laſting as your lives; and the rather, in regard it was your vertue alone that gave you a love to his, ſo much to his advantage. 'Tis very true, as you ſay, that I obſerv'd the Macedonians to purſue us but very coldly, which my Maſter alſo perceiv'd in his retreat; but was far from imputing it to any ſuch cauſe; he retreated 'tis true, but he retreated as a Lion; and knowing the King to be ſafely got off, after many Commands and Signalls to retire, he was forc'd to yield to them, to the torrent of the overcomers, and to the darkneſſe of the night, which began then to cover the earth, and to robbe the Macedonians of ſome part of their victory; Yet was it ſo great that *Darius* loſt in it a hundred thouſand men, his own Chariot of Warre, and all his Equipage, but what he had left

at

at *Damascus*, which also fell into your hands after the taking of that Town. My Master wounded to the heart with grief at the misfortunes of *Persia* of its King, and of that Royall Family which he saw reduc'd to so sad a condition, resolv'd never to forsake but to dye with those from whom his love, his friendship, and his honour had made him inseparable. In this designe he commanded me to follow him, and not so much as minding his Equipage which we had left two dayes Journey from thence, he travers'd the Camp, into which your men were thronging apace, and informing himself of those that fled, which way the King was gone, he followed on his steps till the darknesse took away all possibility of observing them; yet neither that, nor the wearinesse of his horse which was wounded, nor the smart of some light hurts of his own, had power to stop him; but we pursued on our way, resigning our selves to the protection and guidance of the Gods, of whom my Prince did implore no other favour, but that they would permit him to see againe his Princessse; and that poor King afflicted by so many losses; his grief hinder'd him from speaking, and his courage from lamentations unworthy of him; but yet by sighes drawn from the bottom of his heart, he express'd so to the life the nature of his affliction, that in all the night I durst not open my mouth to interrupt him; you may easily imagine what his thoughts might be at that time, and in what manner he was likely to bear the suddain ruine of a house so dear and precious to him. The Countrey through which we marcht was rough and troublesome, and
the

the incommodities of the night joyn'd to those of the way, might probably have made us fall into great dangers, if we had not often met with some that fled, whom we followed, still informing our selves what news of the King, Queens, and Princesses; about day-break there appear'd retiring before us a body of horse, which pressing forwards, we in a short time overtook; it was the Prince *Oxiartes* Brother to *Darius*, with *Mitranes*, *Begous* the Eunuch, & *Patro*, the only person to whom my Master had discover'd himself before the Battell; they were followed by two or three hundred Horse, among which we mingled our selves, without discovering our faces, or making our selves known, till *Patro* observing my Master's Arms, and the Horse which he had given him, having a while consider'd him, made no doubt but it was he, whereof he was no sooner certain, than running to the Prince *Oxiartes*, he cryed out with some kind of joy, O Sir! See here the Tutelary Angell of the house of *Persia*; he that yesterday sav'd our good King, and did such things as surpass'd humanity; see the same Arms, and the same Horse which I gave him before the Battell, and of which he hath made use so gloriously for himself, and so advantagiously for us. Having said this, comming to my Master, he took the liberty himself to discover his face, and fill'd *Oxiartes* and all the rest with astonishment and with joy. They had already understood from *Patro* that that vallant man to whom *Persia* did owe the safety of her King, and the honour of so many brave actions performed in its favour, was the brave *Orintes*, for whom the Court had

sq

so long mourned, as beleeving him slain with the Prince *Artaxerxes*; and this sight surpris'd them so, that the sense of their present condition could not hinder them from mixing some joy upon this occasion, with those too just sorrows that oppress them. *Oxiartes* held him long straightly embrac'd, with such demonstrations of friendship, as forc'd mutuall tears from them both. I ever was confident, brave *Orontes*, sayd *Oxiartes*, that if you were alive, you would not abandon us in the Misfortunes into which Heaven hath precipitated us; Come, come and see again that King, who after the preservation of his whole Family formerly, owes you now his own life; which certainly the Gods have preserved him to be the subject of your greater glory; your sight will be a powerful consolation to him in the midst of all his losses, and will erect him again to hopes from the brink of desperation. My Master made reply to this obliging discourse in the endearingst expressions that his sense of so much kindnesse could dictate; and having perform'd his first civillities and embraces to the chief of the company, he enquir'd with great impatience what was become of *Darius* and his Family; to which *Oxiartes* thus made answer, holding on still his march; The confidence which the King had, that he could not possibly faile of the Victory, made him take along the Princesses to the Army, without providing otherwise for their safety; but as soon as the disorder which he perceived in his Troops, made him begin to apprehend somewhat, he call'd *Megastus* and *Terens* the Eunuch to him, and com-
manded

manded them to fetch them from their Tents, and to conduct them with all diligence and secrecy towards *Damascus*, whither most of the Ladies of the Court were then retyred, and giving them three thousand Horse for a Convoy, he recommended them to the great *Oresmades*, and returning to his care of the Battell, he engaged himself so far as you know among the Enemies, where he had infallibly perisht, had not you rescued him by the effects of a valour more than humane; since that, being forced to yeeld to his misfortune, and to the entreaty of those about him, he sent me word by *Bagous*, that he would take the way of *Unca*, a little Town on the side of the River *Pindarus*, distant from hence about four houres march, and that there he would expect Newes from us, and from the Ladies, in a little Wood which we knew, not above ten or twelve Furlongs from the Town, but so remov'd from all High wayes, and so hardly accessible, that he could not have chosen a more likely place, where to found the Enemies pursuit, and to provide himself at that Town of fresh Horses, and other necessities for his retreat. This is known but to very few, and I discover it to none but those, of whose affection and fidelity I am most assured. After this discourse they doubled the rate of their march, but my Master found himself by this relation in a strange perplexity; his love obliged him to quit the way that *Darius* had taken, and to follow the Princesses, and in that thought he was divers times ready to have quitted *Oxiartes*, to obey the motions of his passion; but the consideration of his honour

soon

soon overcame that thought, and made him sacrifice his Interest to the care of his Reputation, and to the sense of *Darius* his Misfortunes; besides, he conceived that *Oxiartes* and the rest, interpreting his going away either according to the truth, or according to other appearances, could make no judgment of it, but such as must one way or other be prejudiciall to him, either in his love, or in his honour; in this last resolution he followed on the way which *Bagoas* and some other guides directed; and to be short, we came before noon to that wood, where the King was arrived some two houres before; our Guides who knew the most secret paths, after many a turning and winding, brought us into the thickest of the Wood, near to a Fountain, by which we found the King, accompanied onely with *Mazrus*, *Artabazus*, *Coborian* Father to *Roxana*, and some twenty more of his most faithfull Officers, who had taken most care to follow him: That great Prince was seated at the foot of a Tree, upon the loose garments of some of his followers, leaning his cheeks upon both hands, along which one might see the tears trickle down to the ground; those who accompanied him were in a circle round him, seconding his sadnesse with such a silence and immobility, that they appeared like Statues about him; the King buried in thoughtfulness was rowled from it, not without some fright, by the noise of our Horses; he started up at first from the place where he was, but as soon as he saw his Brother, and some other whom he knew, his apprehensions left him, and he advanc'd some steps forwards to receive them,

but with a countenance so dejected, as I could well discern, that how Kingly and generous soever a soul he had, it was not proof against such powerfull assaults of Fortune; after a salutation mingled with sighs and tears, the King having embraced the chief of our Company, he cast his eye upon *Oroondates*, and observing more his Arms than his Face, O Gods, cryed he out, making a step or two back, is it he that I see, is it that man, or rather that God that saved me so miraculously, and who to rescue me did actions so far surpassing the power of man! It is he himself, replied *Oxiartes*, and more than that, it is a person already most dear to you by many high obligations of the same nature; at these words my Prince having put off his Helmet, cast himself at his feet, and taking his hands kist them with great respect and affection. *Darius* at length opening his eyes, and fixing them upon his face, presently knew the same *Orontes*, to whose losse he had given a great share of those tears which he had shed for *Artaxerxes*; that same *Orontes* who not satisfied to have preserved by actions of a vertue miraculous, his Mother, his Wife, his Sonne, and his Daughters, was now come as it were out of the other World, to save his life from a danger out of which none but the Tutelary God of his house could have rescued him; you will easily imagine his astonishment, it shall suffice to tell you, that if he had not supported himself by a Tree that was near him, he was already so overcome with afflictions that he could hardly have borne such a surprise as this, without falling; and truly he was
longer

longer before he could recover his spirits from so suddain and unexpected an encounter, than ever he had been in any accidents of his life; but at length comming to himself from his astonishment, and lifting up his eyes and hands to heaven, Great *Orestes* cryed he out, since you have restored unto me the Saviour of my house, the Genius of *Alexander* no longer daunts me; but I now resume by this your goodnesse, the hopes which had quite forsaken me; and then turning to my Prince who was still upon his knees before him, and bathing his face with tears both of Joy and Sorrow; My protecting Angell, said he, who never abandonest us in those extremities where thy assistance is necessary; My Son, my dear *Orontes*, or rather my own dear *Artaxerxes*, since the Gods taking him from me, have left me in you the better part of him, and the better part of my self, come and receive in my affection, and in my house, the place which he has resign'd you, and which without Injustice can be possessed by none else. Although these words pronounc'd with excessive demonstration of affection, and with a thousand embraces, were capable of drawing upon my Master the envy of all that were present, especially of *Oxiartes*, yet so generall was mans love to him, and his vertue so universally known, that neither he, nor any body else exprest the least distast at those extraordinary endearments; and I cannot tell whether that gave my Master the boldnesse to doe what he did, or whether he had before resolv'd it; but the truth is, that when I least thought of it, I saw him doe an action, and heard him utter words,

which either his despaire, or his confidence in the King drew from him, which I could little have imagin'd. The King endeavouring to raise him from the ground, embracing him with great tendernesse, and calling him still his Sonne, his dear *Artaxerxes*; my Master continuing still upon his knees, No, Sir, said he, in a louder voice than usuall, give not that name so lightly to one you know not, and who ought to lose with that which he hath borne hitherto both his life and your affection; that which I have done for you, was but the duty of a Prince, and of every vertuous person, but what mine have done against you cannot be repaired but by the losse of what's dearest to them; to be short, Sir, I come not hither to aske recompences for what I have done for you, but to receive the punishment of what mine have done against you, and to bring some allay to your past and present griefs, by the satisfaction which you may receive in the revenge of *Artaxerxes*, and of so many thousands that fell with him. The King of *Scythia* has robbed you of a most lovely Son, do you deprive him of one whom he did perfectly love, and by a most lawfull retribution punish in the person of his Son the Murderer of your own; you have here before you, in the false *Orontes*, the true *Oroondates*, *Oroondates* Son to the King of *Scythia*, your mortall Enemy; *Oroondates* who burning with love for the Princessse *Statyra*, ever since that fatall night in which he enter'd your Tents, changing his name and condition to serve her (how unworthy soever) hath by this delusion abus'd your affection: In fine, that *Oroondates* who
 though

though he perfectly honour you and yours, had not power to divert from you and them the milchieses which his have brought upon you; whilst your losses were equall, I thought I might without farther crime avoid the punishment of that which I had innocently committed; but since the King of *Scythia* hath deprived you of a Sonne, whom you loved so dearly, who loved me, and whom I loved infinitely above my self, I ought not to withhold his any longer from your just indignation, nor to abuse you further with the false name of a person whom you have honoured with so great a part in your favour; he would have continued, if the King more struck with wonder than if he had found himself in another world, had not gone back two or three steps, crossing his Armes upon his breast, and considering him twice or thrice from top to toe with eyes and countenance fully expressing the various agitations of his mind, and the differing thoughts wherewith he was combated. All about him were as much surpriz'd as he, and looking amazedly upon one another, expected in great doubt and impatience the issue of this adventure; when as the King having a good while balanc'd his hatred to *Matheus*, with his friendship to *Orontes*, and the injuries which he had received from the first, in the death of his Sonne, and of so many thousands of his Subjects, with the services which the latter had done him, in the preservation of himself and all his family, and considering with what greatnesse of courage, and with how good a grace, he was come to submit himself to him, at a season when nothing could oblige him

to seek his friendship or alliance, but meer affection and generosity; he was overcome by so many considerations; by his inclinations to *Orontes*, and by the motions of his own vertue; so that reapproaching him, and raising him by the Arme, he spake thus unto him with much gravity, and a sweetnesse which was very naturall to him; The Gods Prince *Oroondates*, said he, doe heighten my afflictions, in giving me the knowledg of you at a season when I am so little able to expresse as I would, how considerable it is to me; and if you judge not of my disposition by the generosity of your own, you will doubtlesse believe that the necessity of his affairs, the lownesse of his condition, and the fear of his Enemies do force a King vanquish'd and dispossess'd of a great part of his Dominions, forsaken by his friends, and ready to fall into the hands of his Enemies, to embrace a friendship which the hatred of his house, and the losse of so dear a Sonne would have made him reject during his prosperity; but if with the Royall dignity which the Gods have not quite taken from me, they have yet left any beliefe to the word of so unfortunate a King, I swear unto you by *Orosmades*, that in what glorious condition soever I had bin, knowing you as I doe, the mischiefes which the King your father hath done me, could never have had power to alay my affections to you, nor to blot out by the memory of the Injuries received from him, the obligations I have to you; This is all that I am able to protest unto you in the state where you finde me; & if the alliance of a Prince reduc'd to so low a Condition can yet be desirable, I gladly tender

der it you, with this protestation, that that Daughter of mine, honour'd by your affection, shall never with my consent be any bodies but yours; and that while I live I shall never look upon you as other than my Sonne, and than as the person in the world the dearest to me. My Prince raviſht beyond imagination by discourses ſo obliging, and promiſes off ſo much happineſſe, caſt himſelf againe at his feet, and embraced his knees with unexprefſible transportments of affection; the King having raiſed him, and tenderly embraced him, *Oxiartes* ſoon after did the like, and all the reſt were diſpoſing themſelves to congratulate to him and to themſelves that happy diſcovery with as much joy as their preſent affliction could poſſibly permit them, when they ſaw coming towards them a troop of horſemen, whom they preſently knew to be *Megabyſus*, and ſome others who had bin appointed to convey the Queenes and Princeſſes; that ſight made the Kings heart tremble within him, and advancing towards him, without ſaying to hear, well *Megabyſus*, cryed he out, where are our Ladies? *Megabyſus* with a down caſt look and trembling voyce made answer, alas (Sir) they are no more ours; what ſaiſt thou, are they no more ours? replyed the King diſtractedly. No, Sir, ſaid *Megabyſus*, they are priſoners to *Alexander*; Priſoners to *Alexander*? replyed the King againe; Yes Sir answer'd *Megabyſus*; I had ſcarce conducted them five hundred paces from the Camp, as your Maſteſty had comanded me, when I was followed by *Parmenion* with a great part of *Alexanders* horſe, it was not poſſible for us to make our retreat before

them, by reason of the Ladies, and incumbrance of Chariots and Baggage; But we were forc'd to sustain the shock of the most valiant of the Macedonians; they fought like brave men, but the Doriphores which your Majesty gave me for that service, like fainted hearted and timorous Women, turning their backs almost without resistance; *Parmenion* not troubling himself to pursue them, ran to the precious booty which they so shamefully abandon'd; the Gods are my witnesses that I would have perisht in the place, if my death could have bin of the least advantage of the Queenes, but finding myself alone, and wounded in five or six places, I thought it my best course to imploy what remained of life to advertise you of that, which otherwise would have bin brought you with more uncertainty; the King had not power to hear out these last words, but being too sensible of this new wound, he threw himself upon the ground, and covering his head with his garment, began to bewaile himself with such sighes and groanes, as would have rent the strongest hearts with pittie; my Prince leaning against an Ooke, and crossing his Armes, with his eyes lift up to Heaven, accusing it (without speaking) of so cruell a change of his fortune, exprest his grieve more pathetically by his silence and by his countenance than any words could have done. *Oxiartes*, *Cobanian*, and *Artabazus*, accompanied the King's lamentations with theirs, and all the Company was so stucken and distracted with sorrow as never did there appear any where such a face of dejection; the King having remained a while in the posture I told you, at length

length discovered his face , and sitting up cryed out, It is too much, O fortune, it is too much, since thou persecutest me so cruelly as a King , thou oughtst to have spared me as a private Man, and to have contented thy self with the losse of my Dominions, without surcharging me thus with that of my family ; and it was enough that *Alexander* should triumph over my Empires , without making him triumph also over my Daughters honours, and mine ; and it should have satisfied thee to have brought him into my throne , without bringing him also into my bed. This reflexion so violently tormented him as made him doe things misbecoming the gravity and dignity of his person; he tore his haire, and rent his clothes, and utter'd in his lealoufie words of such desperation, as made all about him tremble at the same time with fear, and weep with compassion; when he appeared a little more settled , he made *Megabysus* begin again the relation , but not having the patience to hear it out, O cowardly Villain, cried he out, you have then preferr'd a shamefeful and infamous life, before a comely, nay a glorions death ; and when thou mightst have fallen honourably at the feet of thy Queen , thou hast chosen rather to prolong thy own life , and shorten mine, by bringing me Newes so fatall to my honour and quiet ; at these words darting him a furious look , he clapt his hand upon his sword ; but *Megabysus* half dead already with feare , had yet the quicknesse to shun this second danger by a second flight. I must needs say that of all the accidents of my Master's life , it was in this that I most admir'd his magnanimity,
and

and the power he had over himself, having that knowledge which I had of his love, I could not doubt but it was equall at least to that of *Darius*; yet how violent soever it were, so great was his constancy, that it never had power to transport him to the least word that might expresse a weaknesse, or aggravate the affliction of the King, who both as a husband, as a Sonne, and as a Father, seem'd wholly abandon'd to it; when he saw him as he thought a little more compos'd, he accosted him with wonderfull calmnesse, and said unto him with an action expressing the greatnesse of his heart; Sir, did not my passion to the Princess your Daughter, and the honour which your Majesty hath newly vouchsafed me, sufficiently interesse me in your losse, The Gods know well how great a part I should take, even without that, in your affliction, and how readily I should expose my life to recover the quiet of yours. This truth (Sir) and the honour you are pleas'd to doe me in believing it, gives me the boldnesse to represent unto you, that it is not by tears that you are to seek a remedy for these misfortunes; possibly they may not be so great in reality, as they are in your apprehension: *Alexander* though a Conquerour and young, is a Prince, and a vertuous Prince; I am confident he will consider in the persons of the Queens and Princesses both the royall dignity, and his own reputation; in the meane while your Majesty may redemand them, and offer such Treasures and Provinces as you shall think fit for their ransom; I will accompany your Ambassadors, and visit them unknown; both my interest and my passion

passion give me wings to fly in this employment ; if your offers shall not move *Alexander* , and if by my cares I cannot finde a probabilitly of recovering those illustrious prisoners, I will kill the Conquerour with that hand which he hath already felt, and either restore the calme to your Dominions, or die gloriously disputing with him to the last drop of my blood, the price of my services and the fruits of your favours. The King listned to him very quietly , and casting his armes about his neck ; My Sonne, said he, I can never doubt your love , nor make an question but it will carry you cheerfully to the greatest dangers for their sakes , when they are concern'd who are so dear to you ; nor should I expect from you other effects than such as have alwaies accompanied your noble undertakings ; and I should indeed repose more confidence in them for my assistance , than in the strength of all my Armies, but what alteration soever your valour might bring in my ill fortune, I cannot obtain of my self a consent to your separation from me, at a time when you fight is so dear, and your consolations so sweet to me ; we may have recourse to other remedies, and how low soever my condition may appear , I have yet very powerfull resources ; and though *Alexander* hath got the possession of a great part of my Dominions, the Gods have yet left me ten times as much as ever his Ancestors enjoyed. I am now going towards *Euphrates* , where I will draw a Million of men into the field , and cover the Territoryes of his new Conquest with so many Troopes, as shall in spite of fortune make him know the difference betwixt the Monarch of *Per-*
sia

sia and a little King of *Macedon*; whilst you are making these preparations, replied my Prince, I will labour the deliverance of the Princesses; if *Alexander* shall voluntarily yield them to your Ambassadors, I shall return to you with them; I protest it is not possible for me to absent my self from your Majesty without great grief, nor could my passion have power to draw me from you, did not my misfortune and the King my father's obstinacy render me incapable of serving you otherwise than with my single person. Since then the malice of the King of *Scythia*, and the knowledge which I have of his nature disable me from offering you any other assistance, be pleas'd to permit me, since I can serve you but onely as one man, to serve you where I may do it most efficaciously, that is near *Alexander*, there shall be no battel given, where if I be alive, I will not combat by your side; and possibly before you come to that I may have ended your warres alone. Many other kinde Contestations they had, which the hazard of the King's longer stay so neare the Enemy, made them put an end unto; and my Master, having at length gain'd his permission to go to the Camp of *Alexander*, and having seen the King mounted upon fresh horses, he took his leave of him, and of *Oxiartes*, and the rest of the company, with many tears. They tooke the way of *Euphrates*, and my Master staid with *Mitbranes* and the rest, who were to convoy him in his Embassy. Wee accompanied the poor King with our eye and with our thoughts; and having lost sight of him, my Master remained stricken with so great grief, as had not the hope
of

of seeing his Princeſſe ſhortly temper'd it, he had been uncapable of comfort. After this ſeparation, I began to think of our hurts, judging it very unfit for my Maſter to engage himſelf in the Enemies Quarters before his cure, where he would be likely to want thoſe aſſiſtances and that reſt which were neceſſary. He hearkened to my advice, and going along with *Mitbrunes* toward the little Town hard by (where he arriv'd within an hour) we got our wounds dreſt, & reſted there that & the next day; the third day we receiv'd the Letters which *Darius* writ to *Alexander*, & another which he writ to the Queens, to give the greater credit to to my Maſter, & to facilitate their knowledg of him. The good King judging that it might be advantageous to him, and that he would be glad to be the bearer of it himſelfe. The next day ſome Troops of *Alexanders* commanded by *Craterus* came, and ſummoned that little Towne, which finding it ſelf too weak to withſtand him, ſubmitted to the Conquerour: We were by the Conditions permitted to retire from thence, which we did with the ſame Equipage we carryed thither with us; bethinking our ſelves of ſome other retreat during our cure; for though our wounds were not great, yet by the little care we had taken of them, they were impair'd and grown troubleſome. We underſtood from the Macedonians, that *Alexander* had taken his Court towards *Marathon*, and was preparing to attacke that place, intending to be in perſon at that Siege (although much incommodated by the hurt in his thigh) and that he had ſent *Parmenion* with a good part
his

of his Army towards *Damascus*, where all the Equipage of *Darius* his Army was kept, and where the Wives of the Princes and Satraps of *Persia* were retired, under the charge of *Artaban* Governour of that City. This news gave my Master a great minde to put himselfe into that place, which was not above two daies journey distant from us, with design there to stay till he was recover'd, and to receive the contentment of seeing *Bersina*, Widdow to *Memnon*, and divers other Ladies of his acquaintance, to whom he thought his assistance might be necessary in such an occasion; but as the most powerfull motive, out of a desire to doe his utmost to serve *Darius*, in the preservation of that important place, which was strong, and well provided for a Siege. These considerations made him sever himself from *Mithranes*, whom he set forward on his way to *Marathon*, having recommended unto him great secrecy in what concern'd himself, and having agreed with him upon certain marks whereby he might be known, in case he should make stay in the Army of *Alexander* till my Master came thither; and taking a Passport from *Craterus* with a little Convoy which he gave us to *Damascus*, we tooke our way thither, where we arriv'd before Sun-set the next day. In this retreat of ours we had one lucky encounter, which was of our Equipage, which having join'd it self to part of *Darius's* was gotten safe to that Town; and the first persons we met there were my Prince's two faithfull Servants; he was much displeas'd with this convenience; although he found himself incommodated with
his

his wounds, he would not goe to bed till he had visited the fair *Bersina*, and payed to that illustrious Widdow those respects which he thought he owed to her own merit, and to the memory of the brave *Memnon*. I have not time to tell you the Ceremonies of the interview, and of his reception in a visit so little expected, nor the tears that were shed on both sides in the remembrance of their mutuall losses; I shall only tell you, that my Prince receiv'd from her all the civilities and kindneses which could be expected from a vertuous Lady, and who had ever a speciall inclination to his vertue and merit; but the contentment which he received was soon allayed by the knowledge she gave him, that the Princeesse *Roxana* whom he thought Prisoner with the Queen, was also in that City, the Prince *Cobertan* her Brother, who was upon the point of retiring among the *Sackes* of whom he was Satrapé, having sent her thither with his Mother, and divers other Princeesses, among whom were the Daughters of King *Ocebus* Predecessor to *Darius*, and the Wife of *Pharnabazus* who had succeeded *Memnon* in all his Charges, the Daughters of *Mentor*, and in a word, most of all the principall Ladies of *Persia*. Although he were much afflicted at the encounter of a person in whose love he foresaw great likelihood of crosses and inconveniencies to his own; yet would he not omit towards her any of those respects which civility, her quality, and her near relation to his Princeesse challeng'd from him; but withall resolv'd to deale very clearly with her, and to disabuse her; and if she perlever'd in her
former

former fancy, to open his heart to her without any disguise, in the least disoblizing terms he could. As soon as he had left *Bersiaa*, he performed that visit; the Princess was strangely surpris'd with the sight of him, but receiv'd him with such extraordinary kindnesse, and with endearments so little suitable to her condition and reservednesse towards others, as easily discover'd to *Oroondates* that his long absence had had no power to diminish her passion; she had long wept for him as dead, or at least lost to her, and so unhop'd for a recovery gave her at the instant a joy so excessive, as made her lose the memory of all her losses, and her sense of the generall misfortune of her Country. It was so late when my Prince went from her, and he was so incommodated by his hurts, that he was able to make no other visits; and commanding me to go make his excuse in other places, he retir'd to his lodging, where he found his Physicians and Chyrurgions, who made him go to bed, and apply himself to his cure. The next morning he was visited by the Governour; but that Traitor who in his minde had already sold his Country, exprest unto him by the coldnesse of his discourses, the little contentment he received by his arrivall in that Citty, which he was upon the point of delivering up to the Enemy. My Prince took it as a very ill Omen, and resolv'd as soon as he should be in a better condition of health, openly to oppose any design he should have prejudiciall to the Kings service; notwithstanding he dissembled his thoughts for the present, watching the occasion to declare himself to
but

best purpose. As soon as *Artaban* was gone, his chamber was full of Ladies; *Roxana*, *Berfina*, and her Mother Wife to *Artabazus*, the Princesses Daughters to *Cecbus*, and all the rest whom I named before, came to congratulate his return, and to expresse unto him the confidence they had in his vertue, at a time when it was so necessary to them; after they had stay'd there some time, they all took their leaves but *Roxana*, who was come last to see him, to the intent that she might stay after the rest, and have the opportunity to entertaine him with liberty. When the company was gone, and no body left in the Chamber but her Women, and some of my Prince his Servants, all at distance enough from the bed, she resolv'd to make use of that time to declare her self to him more plainly than she had done before, and to gain from his own mouth some more certainty than as yet she had been able to do from any of his Actions. Her countenance spake first for her a good while, and the divers alterations in it, by the comming and going of her colour, forewarn'd my Master of a conflict which was now inevitable; she began her discourse by assurances of the joy she receiv'd in his return, and of the griefe which his long absence had caus'd her, and the fears she had liv'd in of losing him in those great dangers to which he expos'd himself, to his preservation, from which she made no doubt but the zeal of her Prayers had much contributed. My Prince answer'd her with his usuall civility, expressing his sense of her favours in the obligingst termes that could be upon such an occasion; but

P

Roxana

Roxana little satisfied with civilities onely, and desiring testimonies of a passion of which he was not then capable towards her, with a deep sigh, and some tears which she could not possibly restrain, resum'd her discourse in this manner; Would it had pleased the Gods, O *Oroondates*, that the first moment of my seeing you had been the last of my life, and that the same blow that wounded my soul had struck my body into the grave; I should not then be in that extremity to which my misfortune and your insensibleness have reduc'd me, and I should not now be forc'd to a part so unworthy of the Royall blood of *Persia*, of some beauty wherewith I have hitherto been flatter'd, and of that vertue whereof I have alwaies made so severe a profession. I shall not need to tell you again, O *Orontes*, that I love you, my past actions have sufficiently inform'd you; I have confirm'd it to you under my hand, and it is now at length that I am enforc'd by it to lay aside that bashfulness which so well becomes a Virgin of my quality, and which ought not to have abandon'd me but with my life; I have long resisted the necessity of making this Declaration, and I have long hop'd for from you what I have not vouchsaf'd to value from others, and which I had vanity enough to expect from a person that were not as you are, altogether insensible; but since you alone have disabus'd me, I ought to lose a great part of my pride with the false opinion of my own beauty, and to declare again unto you to my confusion, that as I cannot but love you, so I cannot live without a return; yet I beseech

feech you to beleave that my passion, though it carry me beyond the limits of decency, yet hath it not power to draw me beyond those of vertue; and if I could as well have preserv'd the power over my tongue, and countenance, as I doe, and shall ever preserve the purity and innocence of my intentions, the affection I bear you would not have made me, as now it does, censurable. I have alwaies regulated my desires to lawfull and vertuous pretensions, nor have I prevented my Fathers choice, but with such reservations as I owe him, and after knowledge of his high estimation of you; if my affection be not odious to you, I conjure you to retain this opinion of it, and not to hate a Princeesse for a fault, which as she had never committed but for you, so is it in your power, whenever you please, to justifie. She concluded these words with such trepidation, with such a down-cast eye; and with such a countenance, as lively exprest her shame and confusion to have said so much. My Master more confounded than she, remain'd a good while unable to answer her, rolling in his thoughts a thousand different desires; but at length he concluded them all in the resolution which he had taken to disabuse her, and not to pay a true affection with dissimulation, which as it would soon discover it self, so was it very contrary to his nature, especially towards such a person as *Roxana*, of a quality not to be abus'd; besides that the discovery of himself to *Darius*, in the presence of *Coborn* her Father, would no longer allow his disguise, and that it was impossible for *Roxana* to be

long unadvertis'd of his love which he had made so publique. Thus then resolv'd to prevent all others, he entertain'd some hopes, that a franck and clear confession might oblige her to rest satisfied with what he was able to doe for her, and that possibly so great a confidence as he meant to expresse, might induce her to change the nature of her affection : It is true he was a great while seeking for terms to expresse what he was resolv'd to say, in the gentlest and sweetest way; and not finding any but what were of ill digestion, his long silence and irresolution held her in strange perplexity ; but she was much more stricken, when after so long a pause she heard these words from him; Wonder not, I beseech you, Madam, at the confusion you see me in, and pardon my incivility, occasion'd by so much trouble of mind; I must confesse to you, Madam, I am more than confounded, both with the honour you doe me, and with that part which I must of necessity act towards you. If your quality and merit were lesse, and that I had lesse inclinations to honour and serve you really and unfeignedly, I should be lesse uncivill, in regard I should then speak to you with lesse freedome ; but since my respects, and the obligations which your goodnesse hath layd upon me, forbid me all dissimulation towards you, I must break through the troublesom'st difficulty of my life, in discovering to you the obstacle which Heaven hath layd in my way to that happinesse of which I acknowledge my self altogether unworthy; the Gods are my Witnesses, Madam, that the proofes which I have received of
your

your honouring me with your affection (although the knowledge of my self might have hindered me from understanding them for other than meer effects of your goodnesse) would have erected my thoughts to the presumption of serving a person altogether divine as you are, and that I should have esteemed my self the gloriousst of men to have liv'd and dyed for a Princeesse for whom all the Princes of *Asia* sigh; but Madam, before I had the honour to see you, this soul of mine which is still full of all honour and respect imaginable towards you, was already made incapable of any impression of love, and that destiny which led me into the Tents of *Darius*, made me leave at the feet of *Statyra* that liberty which otherwise I must have lost to you, and which any minde lesse prepossest, or prépossest by any other subject, would doubtlesse have dedicated to the divine *Roxana*. It is for *Statyra* that I have burnt ever since; for her that I have abandon'd my Country, and disguised my name and condition, to expose my self to my Enemies; and in fine, it is she alone who having been the occasion of my happinesse in seeing you, is also the occasion of my present grief not to be able to acknowledge otherwise than by my respects the friendship wherewith you are pleas'd to honour me: The mask is at length remov'd, Madam, *Darius* hath understood from my own mouth both my name and my designs, he knows the one, and hath approv'd the other, in the presence of the Prince *Cobertan* your Father, and hath by his Royall promise, rais'd in me avowed pretensions to the glorious possession of the Prin-

celle his Daughter. Be pleas'd, Madam, to judge of the power of these engagements, and whether even sever'd from the considerations of my love, these alone are such as could be overcome: God knows with what grief I make you this Declaration, and with how perfect a gratitude I receive the honour you are pleas'd to doe me, and how dearly I would purchase the occasions of sacrificing my life for your service; But, Madam, this is all that my uncapableness through my former engagements allows me; and if you have not as much goodness to consider this rightly, as you have had in your inclinations to favour me, I shall dye in all appearance the ungratefullest, and in reallity the unhappiest man in the world. He ended this discourse with some tears, which his compassion towards *Roxana*, joyn'd to the remembrance of his own affection, forc'd from his eyes; and looking stedfastly upon the Princess to see if in her countenance he could discover how she receiv'd it, he observ'd there all the marks that could be of grief and despair; the truth is, she was so struck with it, that had she not us'd her utmost power over her self to restrain her passion, it would have broken forth with such a violence as must needs have discover'd the occasion of it; she was halfe an houre without speaking a word, sighing and sobbing, with so much Agony, that her Women beleeving her seiz'd with some suddain Indisposition of health, were running in to assist her; but she commanding them to retire, and recovering her self a little, at length forc'd her self to say these few words to my Prince as she was rising;

Orontes

Orontes, *Statyra* deserves more than I, but she is not for you; she is *Alexander's* Captive, and he will soon be hers, who is yet her Master. *Darius* nor *Statyra* can now doe nothing for you, and she is lost to you both. The Gods, replyed my Prince, will dispose of things as they please, but if after such a losse it were possible for me to preserve a life, I should certainly preserve it onely for you. If you give me but this assurance, replyed *Roxana*, I shall be in some degree comforted, and shall for my own particular Interest direct my Prayers to Heaven, contrary to the generall one of my Country, and of the House from which I am descended. Having said this, she took her leave of him, and went away so dejected, as it was easie to read in her countenance the characters of a most deep affliction; leaving him so struck with grief and with trouble at what she had threatned, that it was not possible in all that day to settle him. After that day she saw him almost every other, and entertain'd him of her passion as much as she could without being observ'd by her Mother; he answering her still with the same civility, and constraining himselfe so much in complaisance to her, that she did not altogether lose the hopes of his Love (at least if he should faile of *Statyra*, who was not like easily to get free from *Alexander*.) He was also often visited by the Princesses, Daughters to *Ocebus*, to *Mentor*, and by the Wife of *Pharnabazus*, and *Artabazus*, and by the fair *Bersina*, whose vertues and rare qualities had given him all the inclination towards her, that the memory of *Statyra*. and his

faithfulnesse to her could allow him. She was, as you well know, of a most agreeable conversation; very knowing in divers Sciences, and particularly in the Greek tongue; and above all endow'd with extraordinary discretion, and of a most winning and becomming freedome; all which induc'd my Master to a speciall confidence in her, and to give her a particular accompt of all the accidents of his life, the love of *Roxana* only excepted, which his discretion, or rather his ill fortune, made him alwaies conceale with much care. Within five or six dayes he found himself well enough to quit his bed, but the fourth day there befell him an occasion of grief so sensible, as since the death of *Artaxerxes* I never had seen him afflicted to that degree; it was the losse of that Bracelet which the Princeesse *Statyra* had given him at his departure from *Persopolis*, and which in all his misfortunes he had kept most preciously, as his onely consolation; he was wont to kisse it a thousand times a day; and seeing in the lovely haire of which it was woven, some part of the person he ador'd, and of the Workmanship of those fair hands, he was wont to draw from it some allay to his sorrows; but one morning putting his hand to the place where he usually wore it, he found it missing, and set all his servants to look it; but when he saw all their search and diligence fruitlesse, and that he beleev'd it quite lost, he made so sad lamentations for it, as toucht all that heard him with compassion; he wept, he tormented himself, he threatned his servants, and utter'd words misbecoming

comming his courage. All that day he was incapable of consolation, but at length that heart which had resisted so many afflictions of another nature, was fain to forget that, or to dissemble it at least, that he might apply his thoughts to affairs of more importance; he was advertis'd by *Bersina*, that *Artabon* was upon the point of delivering the Town and all the Illustrious persons refug'd in it into the hands of the Enemy; and for that purpose that he had dispatcht one *Marodus* unto *Parmenion*, who was encamp't about a daies march from *Damascus*. This advertisement made him quit his bed the sooner, resolv'd to make all the opposition he possibly could to that Traytors pernicious designe; but if by Remonstrances to him of his Duty, he should not be able to recall him into the way of vertue, and of that fidelity which he owed to his Prince, he saw no possible means of effecting it, being done in so great a Citty where he was known to few but the Ladies, and where both Souldiers and Inhabitants were at the Governours devotion; besides that they had all taken such a fright, that they trembled at the name *Alexander*, and had not the heart to make the least resistance to the will of that Traytor, who had design'd him so illustrious a Prey; however he resolv'd not to spare himself in the businesse, but to render to the poor *Darius* in his adversity all the proofes he could devise of his friendship; and with that intent being dress'd, and resting himself upon a staffe, in regard of a light hurt in his thigh, he went to the Governours house, permitting none but my
selfe

self to follow him, being already better recover'd than he. *Artabon* receiv'd him with feigned demonstrations of joy for his recovery ; but my Prince having desir'd him to retire into his closet, and being enter'd thither with him, having paus'd a while; *Artabon*, said he, I know both you too well, and the obligations which you have to your good King, to beleeve that you have any thought of disserving him ; It is a report which your Enemies have spread to your prejudice ; I pray take order in it, and let the World see your faithfull intentions for the service of your Prince. Although the Governour were moved at this discourse, yet being upon the point of unmasking, he disssembled it, and coldly replied ; Those who doe me that ill office, *Orontes*, are very ill inform'd of my intentions, they shall alwaies be such as they ought, whilst nothing beyond my power is exacted from me. It is in your power, replied *Oroondates*, to doe your King a very eminent service in the preservation of this City, and of so many persons of Quality deposited in your custody ; the place is strong enough to endure the Seige of a much more powerfull Army than *Alexander's* ; and those who obey you, are zealous enough in his service, not to abandon you in so commendable a Resolution, unto which you are obliged by your Birth, by your Oath, and by your Honour. The Governour, who began to grow impatient, replied briskely ; You need not trouble your self with my designs, *Orontes*, nor teach me my duty in a place which hath not been committed to me, without judging me sufficient for the command ;
you

you are yet very young to be my Instructor, and I am little obliged to receive advices where I am the Master; and rising at these words, without expecting my Prince's answer, he left the Cabinet, and my Master so ill satisfied, that without taking any other leave of him, he went out of the house, and thence directly to *Bersina's*, to whom he related what had pass, and assur'd her of the loss of *Damascus*, and of all their Liberties, if the Gods did not succour them by some extraordinary meanes; he employed the rest of that day in making the inclinations of the inhabitants be founded, and in inciting in their minds some sparks of fidelity and courage against the Governour, who was about to sell them so basely to the Enemy; but they answer'd all solicitations of that kinde so faintly, that my Prince could doe no more at that time but detest their meannesse, deploring the misfortune of *Darius*, and the captivity of so many noble persons which would be involv'd in the losse of that City. The next day at Sun-rise all the Troops were in Armes by the Governours order, who setting guards upon the chief booty, that it might be deliver'd entire into the hands of *Alexander*, commanded the gates to be opened, that he might goe forth to meet *Parmenion*, who was within ten or twelve furlongs of the Town. It was then that my Prince seeing all desperate, resolv'd to hazard all; and making himself and me be arm'd, he got a horback, followed only by my self; he marcht directly to the great place of Armes, where the Assembly was, and whither by the Governours

Com-

Command the Ladies were already brought; As he past through the streets, he cried out to all he met, O ye Syrians, heretofore the honour of the Crown of *Persia*! O changeable people, whither runne you? consider but what a Prince you abandon, and to what a Tyranny you submit your selves. Many other things he said unto them as he went, but those faint-hearted and intimidated Creatures gave no care to his Remonstrances, but ran blindly to their captivity, as the onely means to shun death, of which the terror had seiz'd them. When he came to the place of Armes, which was full of Souldiers, and that by the sight of the Ladies already captive, his choller was inflam'd to the height; Ye people of *Damascus*, cryed he out, O people blinded by the persuasions of a Traitor, stay a while, hearken to the Sonne of a King, who speakes to you, and who will die with you; What Panick fear hath seiz'd you? or by what losse are ye weakned? are not your walls entire? and your forces with their Armes in their hands? See whither you precipitat your selves, and by what cowardise you are about to prostitute your Wives and Daughters to the insolence of the Macedonians; you goe forth to invite the Conquerors, and without costing them one drop of blood, you conduct them to your houses, and into your beds, without considering what you owe to your King, to your families, and to your selves; You are going to yield up voluntarily your limbs to the fetters prepared for you, without making use of them for the preservation of your honours, your liberties, and perhaps your lives. And
you

you (said he to those whom he judged most considerable) you men of honour, whom the Cowardise of these wretches are likely to involve in one common ruin; set a better value on your selves, and resolve to die with me, since I am resolv'd to sacrifice my life for your defence, or to frustrate the Treason of those who so basely sell you. These words had very little effect; and of the great numbers there, there were not any but the young *Ilianeus* Son to *Artabazus*, *Aristogiton*, *Dropides*, and *Levertes*, *Athenians*, *Perippus*, *Onomastorides*, *Omaiut*, and *Callicratides*, *Lacedemonians*, who preferring a glorious Death before a shamefull Captivity, ranged themselves by my Master, who with these few advanc'd towards the Governour, who being advertis'd of his endeavours to stir up the people was coming against him with all his Troops; as soon as my Prince espied him, Well *Artabon* (he cryed out) it is then in earnest that you mean to betray your Prince, your friends, and your honour, and that no consideration can divert thee from thy infamous resolution; *Artabon* looking upon him with disdain, *Scythian*, said he, get thee gone, and doe not irritate his goodnesse who allowes thee a retreat, if thou art not minded to die for the quarrell of the King of *Persia*, having forsaken the service of thine own; Ah Villain replied *Oroondates*, we must die, I will receive no favour from a Traitor; at these words darting fire through his beaver, he took a dart from *Aristogiton*, and raising himself upon his stirrups, threw it with all his might at *Artabon*; but he leaning aside avoided the blow, and the dart thrown by so
for-

forcible a hand, pierc'd two other men, and overthrew them dead at the horses feet: *Oroondates* enrag'd to have miss'd of his aime, drew his sword and threw himself after *Artabon*, who had already shelter'd himself among his men from the death that threatned him, and whilst my Master opinia-ters the making himself a passage to him, his horse is kild under him, and falls so suddenly, that having neither the leisure nor the thought to free himself from his stirrups, he found himself under the whole weight of the horse at the mercy of his Enemies. I would have runne to him, but I had the same ill fortune, and it was then that my Prince had certainly lost his life, if *Artabon*, hoping for the better conditions if he delivered him alive, had not forbidden his men to kill him, making him onely to be disarm'd, and bound with the rest of his Company, who having made for a while a handsome resistance, were forc'd to yield to numbers, and to follow my Prince's fate, as they had followed his noble resolution. *Oroondates* finding himselfe bound, and casting his eye upon *Roxana* and *Bersina*, who were but a little way from him, Ladies, he cryed out, we all runne the same destiny, & must submit to the fortune of *Alexander*; he would say no more, fearing lest his passion should transport him to utter somewhat misbecoming his usuall moderation; the Ladies looked upon him with much grief, but yet with some mixture of joy to see him safe from a danger, wherein they had despaired of his life. *Artabon* causing him to be set on horseback with his leggs tyed under the belly, and his hands behind him, made all the

the spectators hearts to melt with pitty, and having settled that order both for the booty and the troops, wherein those of your party found them, he advanc'd in that Equipage to meet *Parmenion*. I shall not relate unto you his reception, nor how *Parmenion* disposed of the booty; you know it better than I, and intending to entertaine you of no more than the life of my Master, I shall onely tell you, that *Parmenion*, having received the Ladies, and other the most considerable prisoners with great civility, and having set a good guard upon them, and all the rest, *Artabon* at length presented my Master to him; *Parmenion* attentively consider'd him, and being strangely taken with his rare fashion, ask'd the Governour for what reason he had so bound that lovely young man? My Master preventing *Artabon's* Answer, Let the Traitor inform you (said he to *Parmenion*) and by a true relation oblige you to give me the punishment due to me, and to him the recompence he deserves. *Parmenion* who was truly generous, understood him rightly, and having learn'd from *Artabon's* own mouth the truth of what had past, he scarce had heard him out, when looking upon the Governour with contempt, I doe not think strange, said he, that you should punish Actions so contrary to your nature, and I doe not at all wonder now, that with so many Millions of men *Derisus* defends so ill his Dominions, since in them vertue is so unworthily used; but the Macedonians now your Masters reverence it in another manner; and instead of irons which you give it, present it Crowns; At these words turning to my Prince, he commanded

ded him to be unbound, and declar'd him at liberty to betake himself to what party he lik'd best; My Master received this favour without lowlinesse, and without pride, and having obtain'd the same for me, he accepted with much civility a sute of Armes which *Parmenion* presented him; but *Artabon* greiv'd to the Soul at his liberty, and frustrated at that recompence which he expected from *Alexander*, or rather transported to his destiny; Sir said he, addressing himself to *Parmenion*, consider what you doe, it is not the friend of *Darius* whom you set free, but the most mortall Enemy of *Alexander*, he who wounded him at the battell of *Issus*, and who hath engag'd himself by a solemne Oath to bring his head to *Darius*. My Master looking upon him with an eye of indignation, Ah! perfidious Villain (cryed he out to him) is it possible that thou canst yet open thy mouth in the presence of a generous person, and that thou darrest condemn before him those actions which his vertue makes him approve, after thou hast made thy self infamous by such a matchlesse Treachery? *Artabon* emboldned by the presence of *Parmenion*, in which he thought himself secure, replyed; In preferring *Alexander's* party before *Darius* his, I doe but yield to the Conquerour, and follow the will of the Gods, whose pleasure it is that all the earth submit to that great man; but in abandoning long before me, and without any necessity thine own party, and the service of your King, to embrace that of *Darius*, thou are guilty of a Treason unexcuseable; and in contracting a feigned friendship with the Prince of *Artaxerxes* to sacrifice him,

and

and lead him to the butchery of thy Countrymen, thou hast committed a double perfidy, such as past ages cannot parallell. It is impossible for me (Sir) to represent unto you my Masters rage, let it suffice to tell you that the memory of *Artaxerxes* being so powerfully reviv'd in him rendred these reproaches so sensible, that he lost in his passion the use of both his voice and reason, and without considering that he was in the presence of *Parmenion*, and his Prisoner, and without the least hopes of any to protect him, he lanc'd himself forth against *Artabon* with his sword in his hand without being able to utter one distinct word; the Traitor pale and trembling at that object, and flying behind *Parmenion* and the rest that were present, endeavour'd to avoid that death which was so visible before him, but *Oroondates* transported with rage and grief (no obstacle being capable to interrupt his fury) forces his way through all that oppose him, and making himself a free passage with his sword to the Traitor, he run it twice through his body, in the face of 20000 men, who had not the power to hinder him; the perfidious wretch tumbled upon the earth vomiting forth with his blood his cowardly and treacherous soul. No sooner was the execution done, but at the instant *Oroondates* divesting himself of all passion, puting up his sword, & resuming his usuall temper, turned himself to *Parmenion*, & with a most composed Countenance spake thus unto him; Great *Parmenion*. now that *Darius* and my self are revenged, dispose of my destiny as the Gods and you shall please, I refuse not your chains, being freed from

Q

these

those of that Traitor, and I willingly yield up these hands now they have punish'd his perfidy, to be punish'd by you, for having served me in an Action of so little respect towards you. *Parmenion* astonisht beyond expression, consider'd him severall times from head to foot with admiration, but yet with motions full of irresolution, that action of my Princes in which he had express'd so little of respect or consideration for him who had so recently oblig'd him, did highly exasperate and make him incline to his ruine, on the other side the rare generosity which he had express'd in one day by so many eminent effects, joined to that grace which accompanied him in every thing, and did in a manner authorise all his Actions, did overbear all those resentments, and insensibly make his Interests yield to his affection, and esteem of so gallant a person; but withall reflecting upon the words of *Artaban*, touching his having vowed the death of *Alexander*, & judging by that desperate execution in his presence, what such a person might be capable of doing, he feared he might fail of his Duty to the King in preserving him so dangerous an Enemy; in fine, his amazement and conflict with himself being over, Who ever thou art, said he, I am sure thou dost either deserve death, or liberty, but the Gods forbid that I should ever put to death so brave a man, or give liberty to so dangerous an Enemy of *Alexanders*; if the Gods had rais'd him but two such, he might abandon the hopes of his Conquests, and *Darius* resume his, of repossessing again the Throne of his Predecessors: having said this, he gave him in custody

stody to some of those he trusted most, commanding them to use him very well, but to be answerable for his safety with their lives.

Thus was the disloyall *Artabon* punish't, his body was left a prey to the Fowles of the Aire, and his head (as we have since been told) was cut off by a Persian, and sent to *Darius*, who receiv'd by it some comfort in his afflictions. *Parmenion* having settled a Garrison in *Damascus*, and such orders as were necessary in that Province, took his way toward *Marathon*, besieged by *Alexander*, and where he was sure he should yet find him; we arrived there within four dayes, and *Parmenion* leaving the Prisoners under a good guard, went himself to do his duty to *Alexander*; when he had given him an account of the sumptuous booty he had got, he fell to speak to him of my Master, he related his actions to him, & exalted his generosity in such terms, as made him more pleased with the taking of him, than of *Damascus*, and all *Darius*'s Equipage; and having advertis'd him of his design against his life, according as *Artabon* had told him, and according to what he himself had exprest in the last Battell, whereof he yet wore the marks, he gave him more apprehension of my Master alone, than of all the Armies of *Persia*. All these considerations made him earnestly desire to see him; but, Sir, it is not necessary to relate unto you what pass'd between them, since I believe you were present, and that that encounter was memorable enough to be preserv'd in your remembrance. *Lyfimachus* finding *Araxes* stop here, said unto him, I was then absent from the King, *Melea-*

ger, *Polyperchon*, and my self were by his command marche with some Troops towards the Isle of *Arade*, which submitted unto us without resistance; and though I have since heard much of it, yet it was with so much confusion and uncertainty, that you shall oblige me much to pursue your relation without interruption. Since you desire it, replied *Araxus*, be pleased to know that *Parmenion* by the King's command brought my Master before him, not bound, but with Arms, and well guarded; as soon as he came before *Alexander*, his lovely person and fashion produc'd their usuall effects; and as we judg'd by the King's action, affected him with more wonder and respect for him, than the greatnesse of his fortune did allow him towards all other men; whether it was the Majesty of his countenance, or the report he had heard of him, or the proofes he himself had had of his bravery in the Battell, that gave him those impressions. My Master was then but in his twentieth year, yet of so goodly a stature, that he exceeded *Alexander* by the head and shoulders; he was formed with so rare a proportion, and accompanied with such a vivacity in his eyes, and with so rare a grace in all his gestures and actions, that he was considered both by *Alexander*, and by all there present, as a person altogether extraordinary, his presence easily perswading them to a belief of the fame that went of his wonderfull vertue and courage. *Oroondates* did not salute *Alexander* with those humiliations which he since exacted, nor with any such low submission as might seem to beg grace of him in whose power he was; but on
the

the other side affected not an unseasonable and uncivill pride, but holding himself in a just moderation, paid him what he thought would have bin due from him at his full liberty, to a person of his condition, illustrious by so many victories; *Alexander* received him with great civility, and having considered him twice or thrice with great Inten-
tivenessse, as it possible, said he, that you are that valiant man, who did such wonders at the battell of *Issus*, and with whom I my self had an encounter so little to my advantage, that I yet bear the troublesome markes of it? *Oroondates* finding himself obliged to *Alexander* by the praises he bestowed upon him, replied to him with much modesty; I did so little Sir, that my Actions were made remarkable, onely by the cowardise of my Party; and the only glory that can remain to me by them, is not to have turned my back till I had tryed the valour of him who put three hundred thousand to flight; *Alexander* ravish't with an Answer both so modest and so brave, and looking about upon *Ephestion* and *Ptolemy*, he obliged them by his applause, to expresse theirs also; and then turning again to *Oroondates*; But is it true, said he, that you have a particular designe against my life, and can you be of those whom the hopes of a thousand talents could induce to promise my head to *Darius*? Although my Prince was sharply offended with this Discourse (as I perceived by the colour that flush't in his cheekes) he replied very temperately, Neither the hopes of a thousand talents, nor of a thousand Empires can make me undertake any thing but what honour and vertue shall

shall dictate, but the [consideration of what I
ow to *Darius*, shall ever make me undertake
both against you and against all his Ene-
mies, all that a vertuous King can desire of such
a friend, against Usurpers of his Dominions, and
Persecutors of his life; this reply sharply incens'd
Alexander, but filled him withall with high admi-
ration and value, and accordingly he made this
answer; If *Darius* had many such friends, perhaps
I should have bin yet on the other side of the *Gra-
nick*; but if he had one of mine in his power, and
should hear from his own mouth such a Declara-
tion, I believe he would put him to death, and
secure his own life by the destruction of so dange-
rous an Enemy: If you have the same fear, replyed
Oroondates, (not at all daunted) you have the
same power, and I still the same intention. *Alex-
ander* more surpris'd than before, paused a great
while without saying any thing, and expressing
his irresolution in his countenance, all that were
present expected with impatience the Issue of this
adventure; and I am verily perswaded that the most
vertuous of his friends, though they would have
bin very joyfull to secure their Prince by the de-
struction of any of his Enemies, yet were posselt
by my Master with so much good will towards
him, as they could hardly have seen his with-
out much trouble; for my part I must confesse I
had great apprehensions for him, and did tremble
in the expectation of so uncertain an event. But in
fine, *Alexander* after he had held his eyes a great
while fixt upon the earth, on the suddain settled
them on my Prince, and rising from the Chair in
which

which he had fate all that while by reason of the hurt in his thigh, said unto him, touching him in the hand; Whoever thou art, Grecian, Persian, Prince, or Private man, I see thou art too generous to attempt any thing against my life by waies contrary to vertue, and I think my self well enough able to defend it when thou shalt assail me as a gallant man: I will not secure it by the losse of thine, but I will seek to make the danger equall, when we shall be upon equall advantages; In the mean while enjoy both thy life and liberty, which thou maist henceforward employ for *Darius*; I do not fear thee enough to endeavour to win thee to us, after the Delaration thou hast made, nor yet do I so undervalue thee, but if I could now do it with honour, I should prefer thy friendship before the best Province of *Asia*. Thou mayst go thy way when thou pleasest, and if thou bee'st at the next battell, finde meanes to make thy self known, and remember thy gallant resolution; 'tis there that we will fight for my head, and where with a better grace than now I can, I will endeavour to bereveng'd of the hurt thou gavest me. If *Alexander* was taken with the magnanimity of my Master, that of *Alexander* touch'd my Prince so to the heart, that it chas'd from it all the hatred he had against him; or if there remained any resentment, it was lesse for the losses of *Darius*, yea even for the captivity of his Mistressse, than for the grief he received to finde himself overcome in generosity; and indeed he hath confest to me since, that in his life he never received a more sensible one, and the trouble which appear'd in his face exprest very

visibly that of his minde upon that occasion; permitting him to reply only these few words to *Alexander* in a more melancholy tone than before; It is now indeed that I deplore the fortune of *Darius*, and that I esteem his overthrow by the anger of the Gods certain; since they have rais'd him such an Enemy as gaines hearts, as irresistable as battels, he said no more, but taking his leave of *Alexander*, he refus'd all the presents that were offered him, except onely of horses and Armes for himself and me, which he received at length, as it were in exchange of those which had bin taken from him; his equipage also was restor'd to him entire, and he contented himself with a safe conduct, refusing the convoy which was offer'd him to any Town in possession of *Darius*. Thus parted those two great men, preserving in their soules such a value of one another as you may easily imagine. *Araxes* was at the point of his stay, when he was desired by *Lysimachus* to go to *Oropontes* his Chamber to make his excuse for not waiting on him that morning, occasion'd by his impatience to know the rest of his story. *Araxes* did as he desired, and finding his Master in reasonable good condition, he returned to *Lysimachus*, and taking again his place, at his entreaty thus resum'd his Discourse.

THE END.

